

William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Premier of New South Wales, Bertram Stevens, 23 May 1938, New South Wales Archives and Records, NRS 12060, Item No. [12/8749-8750]

With reference to my previous complaint of the type of new homes being provided at Cumerogunga, when I requested that the building of slum building cease pending your consideration of the matter of a superior type. The building operations have ceased but here has not been the provision of the better class of home as requested. Resulting from this, the people living in the slums along the River must continue in these awful conditions for another winter. I would be glad to have your early decision as to the type of home to be provided and that the work of building shall go on very soon.

This league is working to secure from the Administration and the White Public conditions that will make for the uplift of our people and we seek to get this by cooperation and goodwill. Quite definitely the criticism against our people in respect of their living conditions is not constructive unless they get the better housing conditions they desire. Quite definitely I say that no type of building inferior to the new houses at La Perouse should be the standard and every home should be big enough to afford decency and comfort.

I would request that you give this matter your urgent and personal consideration. While the policy of pulling down slum[s] in the cities occupied by white people is being carried out they should not be erected for aborigines.

Hoping that I will hear favorably from you soon.