

***Argus*, 12 July 1938, p. 13, Judge Wells Criticised. Aborigines' Plea**

The opinion that Judge Wells, of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, is not competent to administer justice to aborigines is expressed in a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Australian Aborigines' League recently. The resolutions, a copy of which has been sent to the Prime Minister (Mr Lyons), are as follow[s]:—

“That we aborigines are definitely of the opinion that Judge Wells is prejudiced against our people and is therefore not competent to administer justice where aborigines are concerned. We therefore request the Federal Government to remove him from jurisdiction over aborigines. Further, we consider the facts of the case of the charge against Packsaddle justify a retrial, and we aborigines so request this.”

“That this league protests against the proposal to flog aborigines alleged to be guilty of offences, which in similar circumstances white men would not receive.”

“That we bring to notice the delay in replying to our petition to the King, seeking representation for aborigines in the Federal Parliament, and request an early announcement.”

“That this league expresses its protest against the recently enacted legislation for Aborigines in Western Australia and to the Press statement, over the name of Mr Carrodus, secretary to Prime Minister, that efforts were being made by the Commonwealth to induce State Governments to co-ordinate all legislation dealing with the aborigines to conform with the West Australian act.”

“That the deplorable condition of aborigines in Western Australia calls for urgent relief, and, pending the adoption of a Federal policy for aborigines, this league asks that a grant be immediately made to the West Australian Government, the expenditure of such grant to be subject to supervision by the Federal Government.”