

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons, 10 September 1938, National Archives of Australia, A431, 1949/1591**

The letter from your Department, dated 8th August, re the natives at Cumeroogunga who had their names removed from the roll of electors has been noted with thanks. The reply, however, gives me the material for further representations which I make to you personally, knowing that you will give it favorable consideration so far as you are concerned.

The letter in question mentions that only two natives are not now on the roll, one of whom has since left the station. The sole full blood remaining, Fred Stewart, is better educated than most of the half-castes and is a good type whose only fault is that he has not an admixture of white blood, a detriment only in White eyes. By reason of his education and capacity he acted as clerk on the station when he was young. This coupled with the fact of other full bloods, whom we could name but whom you also know of, surely brings to notice the unreasonableness of the discrimination against full bloods. This I know you will agree with if there is no obstacle we are unaware of. Regardless of whether there is any such obstacle I do ask that you take the necessary steps to bring all natives, of full or half blood into the status of whites, in the conditions in which half-castes are brought in. This will involve not only the franchise but pensions as well. Surely at this late hour it is not too much to ask, even if special legislation has to be introduced.

Hoping for a favorable reply.