

William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Premier of New South Wales, Bertram Stevens, 5 November 1938, New South Wales Archives and Records, NRS 12060, Item No. [12/8749-8750]

With pleasure we learn from the press that legislation is to be introduced to reorganise the Aboriginal Administration. From the reports there is one factor, which we regard of supreme importance, and that is "representation of aboriginal interests", to which there is no reference. It will be calamitous if provision is not made for this.

We ask that we have representation on the Board, for representation only by an anthropologist is not satisfactory to us. Such a representative can keep the Board advised of Aboriginal aspirations and can be a liaison with the natives.

We further ask [for] representation on the Aboriginal station administrations. There will not be any cost in this and better results will come when the native finds he has a voice in his own destiny. Our suggestion is that a council of natives be elected by the natives on the stations and that responsibilities be devolved to them. This will make the manager more in the nature of a representative of the Government, and ultimately of the King, to whom, personally, and to his throne and government, the natives are proud to be loyal.

This step will be a great factor for the full uplift of our race and is filly consonant with British ideals.

Thanking you.