

William Cooper, Real Australian Native Association, to the Minister for the Interior, Thomas Paterson, 8 April 1935, National Archives of Australia, A431, 1949/1591

On behalf of the Aborigines population of Australia from whom I have received 2000 signatures, from all parts of Australia authorising me to plead for justice; And noticing the continual reports in daily presses of ill treatment of Aborigines, reports of a similar nature have been coming from different parts of Australia. Fifty years to my knowledge, in my travels through Queensland, South Aust, N, S, Wales and Victoria, have noticed large tribes of Aborigines, and to my estimation appeared hundreds of thousands. Turning to the general liberty of early history estimates millions of Aborigines, and it is publicly known the numbers reduced from Millions, to 70,000, aborigines all told. Sir, we humbly pray that you will intervene on our behalf through instrument of the Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, to prevent the gold seekers, settlers, and others, from further ill treatment to Aborigines.

Trusting a favourable Consideration will be given to our requests, and your petitioners will ever pray.