

Stronger Futures: We Are In Mourning

Dr Djiniyini Gondarra, Yolngu Nations Assembly spokesperson, is calling on the Federal Government to lower the Aboriginal flag in Canberra, in the wake of the Stronger Futures bill being passed.

"The Government has shown absolute disregard for our wishes and our human rights", Dr Gondarra said. "By overruling the wishes of the people, the Government has declared a war on democracy. We call on it to lower our flag to half mast, to acknowledge the hurt Stronger Futures will cause our people."

The Stronger Futures legislation, which passed through the Senate in the early hours of June 29, has been condemned as racist by the Yolngu Nations and many Aboriginal, community and church organisations. 42,000 Australians signed a petition calling on the government to withdraw the legislation.

"It is hypocritical and disrespectful for the government to continue to fly our flag after ignoring our pleas, our statements, our alternative proposals, time after time", Dr Gondarra continued.

The North-East Arnhem Land leader also called on Aboriginal Tent Embassies to lower the flag to half mast. "This is part of our mourning. The fight is not over, but for now we are mourning. At the same time, we are planning the next stage in our campaign. We put the government on notice: this is not over."

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