

Distinguished Lecture 2017

Mining Royalty Payments and the Governance of Aboriginal Australia

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and Public Policy**

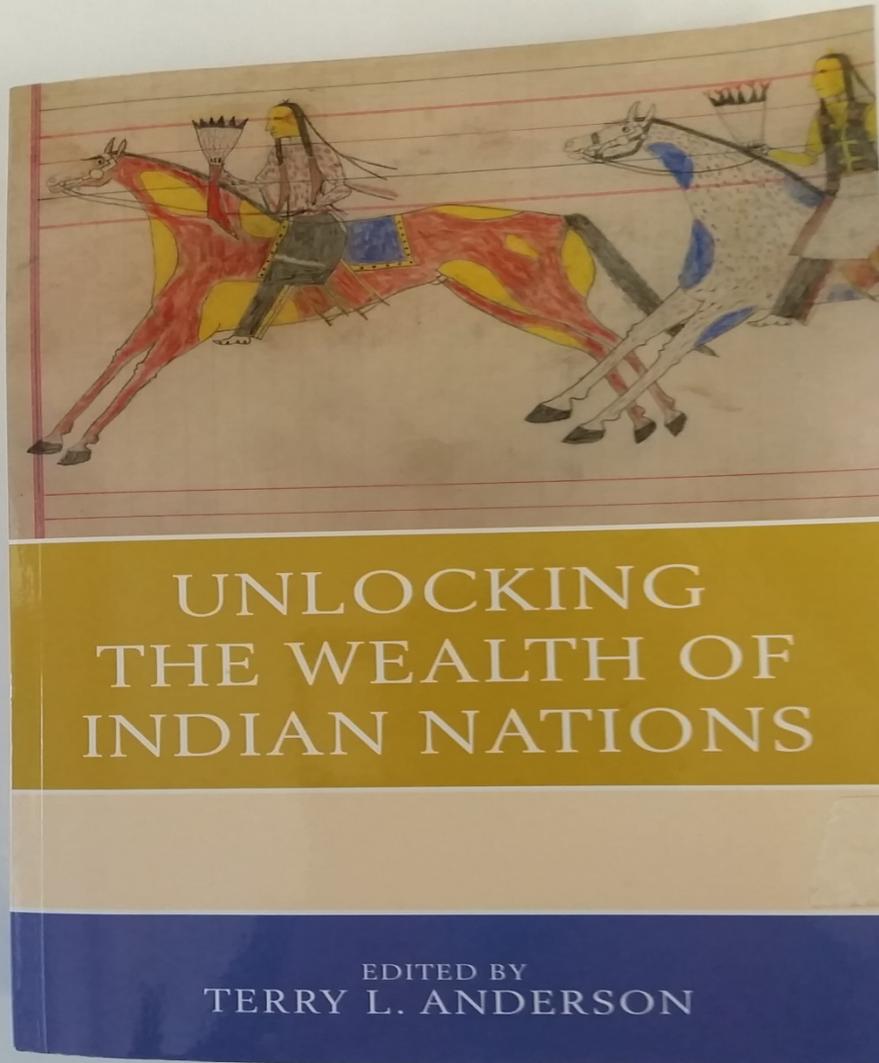
Enhancing knowledge of governance in Australia and globally

Some 'Key Indicators' for Remote Australia 2015

- **Fifty per cent of Indigenous people in very remote areas, and 30 per cent of those in remote areas, lived in overcrowded housing;**
- **Only 30 per cent of Year 7 Indigenous students in very remote areas achieved the national minimum standard for reading (the equivalent figure for non-Indigenous students in the same areas is 90 per cent);**
- **Only 14.6 per cent of young Indigenous people in remote Australia were working or studying full time (Productivity Commission 2016).**

A Century of Indigenous calls for autonomy ...

- **‘Aborigines should control any administrative body affecting their lives’ (launch of Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association, 1925).**
- **‘When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish’ (‘Uluru Declaration from the Heart’, 2017).**



Frye and Parker 2016 Autonomy and Incomes

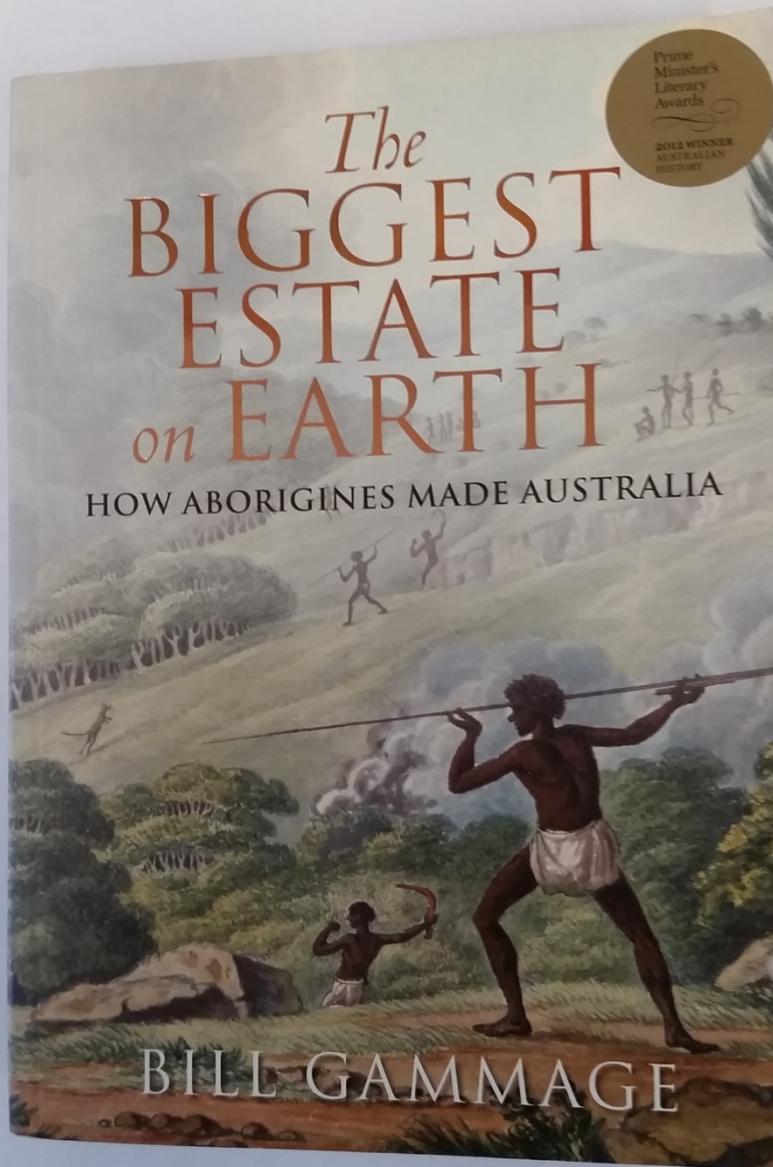
- **Compared US Indian reservations outside the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) after 1934 and which enjoyed greater autonomy, and reservations that remained under BIA influence.**
- **Lengthy time involved (75 years) and large sample size (217 US reservations), adds to statistical robustness;**
- **Methodology allows them to control for a number of other potential influences on economic performance;**
- **More autonomous reservations experienced a 53 per cent growth in per capita incomes relative to reservations under BIA control;**
- **Growth less stable – some cost to autonomy;**
- **But BIA oversight ‘stunted long-run income growth for the average reservation’; self-governance ‘outperforms the path marked by paternalism and oversight ...’**

Self-Government Powers in Canada

- **In relation to the members of the First Nation, powers include taxation; culture and languages; health, education, housing and welfare services; custody and care of children; marriage; law enforcement and corrections.**
- **In exercising these powers, Aboriginal governments are required to provide a system of reporting through which they are ‘financially accountable *to their Citizens*’.**
- **In relation to reserve or settlement lands, powers include use and management of land and natural resources; hunting, trapping and fishing; business licencing; planning; regulating of alcohol; and control of pollution and protection of the environment.**
- **In other words, Canadian Aboriginal governments exercise powers not dissimilar to those of state governments in Australia.**

Self-Government in Canada

- Does not mean a withdrawal of Canada from its commitments to fund services for Aboriginal communities, nor relegate Aboriginal to a lower level of service provision;
- Self-government agreements require that First Nation citizens have access to opportunities and essential public services comparable to those enjoyed by all Canadian citizens;
- Long-term funding arrangements negotiated to support provision of services in the Aboriginal government's areas of responsibility.
- E.g. 2011-2012, Canada provided the Nunatsiavut Inuit Government in Labrador C\$32.5 million to help fund program delivery to its 5,000 citizens;
- Settlements include capital grants to help establish the operations of the Aboriginal government. E.g. Labrador Inuit C\$190 million over 14 years.



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Indigenous Advancement Strategy 2014-16

- One of the most radical overhauls of federal Indigenous affairs policy and programs in recent decades.
- Rationalised and centralised control of all programs, grants and activities for Indigenous Australians under DP&C;
- Cut of \$534.4 million to the annual Federal funding allocation to Indigenous programs;
- Shift to a single competitive tendering process for all services, at least initially attached no weight to the value of involving Indigenous organisations;
- Led to a large increase in the involvement of non-Indigenous non-government organisations (NGOs);
- Required Indigenous organisations applying for grants over \$500,000 to incorporate under the *CATSU Act*.

Senate Finance and Administration Committee on IAS

- ‘There was little to no consultation or engagement with communities and organisations on this fundamental change to ATSI programs and no input sought at the start of this process’ (SFPAC 2016, 60).
- Senior DP&C officer: ‘ ... we look[ed] at all the reviews and things that had gone before to get us to that place. Once the IAS was established we then communicated about the IAS and the next steps’
- The DP&C ‘did not articulate the evidence base for the development of the IAS as the means by which to address earlier policy failings in this area’.
- Open competitive process pitted small, Indigenous community-controlled organisations against well-resourced and experienced applicants, contributing to ‘the gradual erosion, undermining and loss of Aboriginal-controlled organisations’.

Marcia Langton on fear ... Q&A 7 August 2017

In response to a question about why proposals for constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians creates fear in some sections of the community:

‘I think the fear is that the recognition of our peoples brings into question their status as Australians. It’s shaking up the very foundations of what they believe Australia is ... [they] believe Australia is a white country and they don’t want to admit how they obtained that country.’

the
**FABRICATION
of ABORIGINAL
HISTORY**



KEITH WINDSCHUTTLE

VOLUME ONE

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND
1803-1847

Windschuttle and Tasmania ...

- Questions the details of and motivations for colonial killings;
- Seems to shift attention away from main point made for example by the historian Plomley, who Windschuttle regards as the 'most scrupulous scholar' of the white settlement of Tasmania:

'As a result of this [British] invasion, the Tasmanian Aborigines ceased to exist as a natural society, and their numbers were reduced within three quarters of a century to a few individuals ...'.