

Mr. Yand  
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**PRIME MINISTER**FOR PRESSAUGUST 24, 1976ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) BILL 1976

The Defence Force Ombudsman, Mr David Hay, has been asked to analyse the written representations received by the Government on the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976, which was presented to the Parliament on 4 June 1976.

In his Second Reading Speech, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs said that the Government intended that the Bill should be available for public scrutiny by the Aboriginal people and others in the Northern Territory and elsewhere, before it was debated further in the House. Mr Viner said that all representations would be taken into account in arriving at the final form of the legislation.

Mr Hay will not receive representations direct but will be given copies of all representations to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and other Ministers.

Mr Hay has been asked to report on them no later than the end of September. Further debate on the Bill will not be deferred any longer than necessary and the Government is anxious to secure the Bill's passage during the Budget Session.