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Rangers making a difference



ABORIGINAL rangers, from left, Colin Hughes, Bill Maher, Bourbon Hodges and Terry Maynard with one less feral cat to create havoc with native animals on Truwana (Cape Barren Island) in Bass Strait. The island's ranger program, started last year, is providing many advantages for the isolated Tasmanian community of about 60 people. Get the full story on page 5. *Picture: Jillian Mundy*

Wind it back

By RUDI MAXWELL



A parliamentary committee has recommended winding back many of the harsh conditions of the Stronger Futures legislation, including compulsory income management. But the Federal Government has refused to say

Committee call for action on Stronger Futures

whether it will follow that advice.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, chaired by Liberal elder statesman Philip Ruddock and including members of all major parties, handed down its report into the

Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012.

Committee members' recommendations include scrapping blanket compulsory income management, a review of the alcohol restrictions on

Aboriginal land and redesigning the School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure (SEAM), in which parents had their Centrelink payments reduced if their children didn't attend school. The timing of

the report is somewhat embarrassing for the Government, which launched a new 'trial' of income management in Ceduna, South Australia, in the same week.

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