

STATE LAW WILL HELP ABORIGINES

The Victorian Government is drafting new legislation to remove Aboriginal affairs from ministerial and direct Government control. It will give Aborigines greater control of their affairs.

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It will reconstruct the present administrative methods and eliminate a requirement that a State Minister must be chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The Government began drafting it after the State election in June 1964 when the Minister for Transport, Mr Ray Meagher, then chairman of the Aborigines Board, was opposed by Aboriginal tenor Mr Harold Blair.

Mr Blair, a Labor candidate, attacked the Government on its handling of Aboriginal affairs.

After the election Mr Meagher resigned as chairman of the board. The new measure is expected to give effect to a number of points raised by Mr Blair.