

## **BEDS ARE BURNING by Midnight Oil (lead singer Peter Garrett)**

Midnight Oil first performed this song in 1987 to help people realise that the Second Peoples of this country had over time taken away sacred land from the First Peoples. They were signalling that it was time to make a change.

(Out where the river broke ....)

Peter Garrett refers to the Australian outback where much sacred land was taken from indigenous people.

(The time has come .... Let' give it back)

These words are meant to evoke a feeling of sadness and responsibility and to encourage the Government to give back the land.

(How can we dance ....)

Here Midnight Oil is asking how life can continue for most people whilst it remains a misery for others.

(The time has come ....)

Peter Garrett is saying that in all fairness, the time has come to fix the harm and repay indigenous people by giving back their land.

(Four wheels scare the cockatoos ....)

(The time has come .... Let's give it back)

At the closing ceremony of the 2000 Olympics, Midnight Oil came out of retirement to perform the song again. They wore outfits adorned with the word Sorry. They had decided that if the government would not apologise, they would tell Aboriginal People through their song that they were sorry.

(How can we dance .....)

The then Prime Minister, John Howard, who loved the song, would not say sorry. The Governments for years had refused to apologise because they did not want to admit responsibility nor compensate the Aboriginal people financially. Finally in 2009, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said sorry and now the country celebrates National Sorry Day each May 26th. Some land has been returned to the original landowners.

(The time has come ..... ....give it back)

Music provides a great way of protesting. It reaches a world-wide audience and the message of protest is easy to understand when repeated over and over. Music awakens our social conscience. Thanks Midnight Oil. Great song!

(How can we dance .....)