

Date of submission: 30/03/2022

Attention: **Queensland Government and Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships**

Submission regarding: **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Acts**

Queensland Government is reviewing the Cultural Heritage Acts and has called for feedback and submissions from the community.

I am a resident in Queensland and submit the following for your consideration.

From my research over the last few years into the processes related to these Acts and specifically into the results occurring under these acts I consider the acts need revision as they have failed to protect the precious cultural heritage of the Wangan and Jagalingou People on the Carmichael Coal Mine site.

The Wangan and Jagalingou People have made submissions to the Queensland Government regarding protection of their cultural heritage and these have been overridden or ignored on the Carmichael Coal Mine site.

To prevent this continuing to happening for the Wangan and Jagalingou People and all other Traditional Owners in Queensland in future, we are asking the Queensland Government to:

1. Amend the definition of 'Aboriginal party' so that Traditional Owners with cultural connection to Country are always involved in consultation and negotiation processes, regardless of their status as a native title party.
2. Create greater enforcement powers for First Nations, so that we aren't reliant on the State to protect our cultural heritage if it is in imminent danger of harm or destruction.
3. Establish an independent First Nations-led decision-making body that is responsible for dispute resolution and mediation, and for assessing who the right people to speak for Country are.

It is imperative that all people in Queensland have a voice in shaping the government legislation and decisions that impact upon their cultural heritage and living arrangements and that there is transparency in this process. This has not occurred to date on the Carmichael Coal Mine site and that situation needs urgent rectification