

The Government of Queensland

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Attention to the reviewers of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Cultural Heritage Acts

For many Australians, and a rapidly growing number I might add, it is understood that much legislation relating to our First Nations communities is either woefully inadequate in terms of securing positive outcomes, or just plain overwhelmingly negative. So I ask you to make the following amendments:

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.

Warm regards

Lauren Edwards

