



## Lodge a written submission

Submitted By : Gregory Steel

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**Q.1 Please upload your document.**

A.

**Q.2 Do you have any comments you wish to add?**

A. I wholeheartedly agree with the statement by the Wangan and Jagalingou people (see below). I believe the amendments they have suggested will enable a closer approximation of power-sharing. If the Queensland government is serious about addressing some of the wrongs of the past they will adopt these reforms. These reforms will empower first nations people, it's time they were treated like adults, not children and no longer hindered in their path to self-determination.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Greg Steel

"The Cultural Heritage Acts in Queensland have failed the Wangan and Jagalingou People, and many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Currently these Acts simply allow developers a smooth ride to gain their approvals without meaningful consultation with the Traditional Owners for Country and without sufficient accountability when acting illegally.

The management and protection of cultural heritage should be in our hands, and not in the hands of the State or developers. We are calling for the following reforms, that are needed at a minimum to improve the protection of cultural heritage in Queensland:

- Amend the definition of 'Aboriginal party' so that traditional owners with cultural connection to Country can be involved in consultation and negotiation processes, regardless of their status as a native title party.
- 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.
- 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."