



Lodge a written submission

Submitted By : john mcpherson

Submitted On : 2022-03-30 13:55:27

Organisation Name :

Phone :

Email :

Q.1 Please upload your document.

A.

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

A. Traditional Owners of the land, have the human right to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop identity and cultural heritage. But Queensland's laws are denying human rights.

Traditional Owners have no enforcement powers to protect cultural heritage. Under the Cultural Heritage Acts there is little to no ability to stop destruction of cultural heritage, leaving them reliant on the government to protect their cultural heritage.

The Cultural Heritage Acts in Queensland have failed many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Currently these Acts simply allow mining companies a smooth ride to gain their approvals without meaningful consultation with the Traditional Owners.

Remedies include:

1/ 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.

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.