

TO: QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
RE: CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT
FROM: JANET DAWSON
DATE: 30th March 2022

I am deeply concerned that destruction of Country and sacred sites is still continuing. Therefore, I wish to strongly urge reform of the Cultural Heritage Act in the following ways:

- 1) Broaden the definition of “Aboriginal Party” to include traditional owners who have a cultural connection to Country can be involved in the consultation process, regardless of their status as a native title party.
- 2) Create greater enforcement powers for First Nations, so that they are not powerlessly reliant upon the State to protect their cultural heritage if there is imminent danger of harm or destruction.
- 3) Establish an independent First Nations led decision making body that is responsible for dispute resolution and mediation, including ensuring that the voices of all concerned are heard in the process.

I believe these reforms will further protect Country and ensure that the rights of traditional owners are respected.

Sincerely,
Janet Dawson