



Lodge a written submission

Submitted By : Anne Gillme

Submitted On : 2022-03-30 22:05:26

Organisation Name :

Phone :

Email : anne.gillme [REDACTED]

Q.1 Please upload your document.

A.

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

A. 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. This is consistent with the practice of many developments throughout Australia where the average citizen's voice is ignored.

The management and protection of cultural heritage should be in Aboriginal hands, and not in the hands of the State or developers. The following reforms 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 First Nations people aren't reliant on the State to protect their 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.

Thanks for your consideration on that matter.

Best regards,

Anne