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**Subject:** Submission - Reshaping Queensland's cultural heritage laws  
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Dear Review Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some input into the Queensland government's review of its cultural heritage laws. I would like to use this submission to express my concerns about the current laws and suggest some changes to reform and reshape the next iteration. One of the main issues is the fact that the State or developers make key decisions while the traditional owners with connection to Country lack the power to actively manage and protect their cultural heritage.

To redress this issue and improve the protection of cultural heritage in Queensland, I urge the review committee to make the following changes:

1. Redefine 'Aboriginal party' to allow for traditional owners with cultural connection to Country to be involved in all consultation and negotiation processes, regardless of their status as a native title party.
2. Provide greater enforcement powers for First Nations peoples so that they are not dependent on the State to protect their cultural heritage, especially in cases where it is under imminent danger of harm or destruction.
3. Create an independent First Nations-led body, with a range of ancestral cultural heritage decision-making responsibilities, including dealing with dispute resolution and mediation, and assessing peoples' right to speak for Country.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to reading about the outcomes of the review and revised cultural heritage acts that place traditional owners with cultural connection to Country as key decision-makers.

Sincerely,

Celina McEwen