

Queensland's Cultural Heritage Acts have failed to protect the precious cultural heritage of the Wangan and Jagalingou People on the Carmichael Coal Mine site. To prevent this happening for the Wangan and Jagalingou People and all other Traditional Owners in Queensland in future, we are asking the Queensland Government to:

1. Amend the definition of 'Aboriginal party' so that Traditional Owners with cultural connection to Country are always 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.

### **Queensland's laws currently fail to recognise the right people to speak for Country**

As many of you know, the Carmichael Coal Mine is located on ancestral Wangan and Jagalingou Country. Hundreds of artefacts have been found on the mine site and it is a record of the Wangan and Jagalingou People's occupation of the area and evidence the area has been used by our people for thousands of years.

As there is significant cultural heritage on the mine site, the proponents of the mine, Bravus Mining and Resources (**Bravus**), were required to consult with the 'Aboriginal party' and enter into a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (**CHMP**) with them.

The Cultural Heritage Acts currently rely on the native title framework to determine who the 'Aboriginal party' is. This meant that Bravus only negotiated a CHMP with the native title party for the area, the Clermont-Belyando native title applicants.

Other Wangan and Jagalingou People who are not native title applicants were not consulted about the impact to their cultural heritage, even though they have cultural knowledge and responsibility for areas on the mine site and are the right people to speak for Country.