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Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 12:27 PM
To: CHA_Review
Subject: Reform Cultural Heritage Laws

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To the Cultural Heritage Review Panel.

The current cultural heritage laws are extremely inadequate and have enabled monetary interests to over ride traditional owners cultural and land rights.

The manner in which large business interests have continued to destroy ancient artefacts, sacred sites and natural heritage is a continuation of blatant colonialism that still robs first nations people of their human rights.

The Cultural Heritage Laws need to be reformed in the following ways:

Amend the definition of "Aboriginal Party" to include all traditional owners with cultural connection to Country, and to include them in all consultation and negotiation, regardless of their status of a Native Title party.

Establish greater enforcement powers for First Nations People so that they aren't reliant on the State to protect cultural heritage from destruction.

Establish a First Nations-led decision making body to mediate and resolve disputes, and assess who should speak for Country.

Thankyou for this opportunity to contribute to improving the Cultural Heritage Laws.

Yours faithfully
Elizabeth and Barry Charleson

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