

I, Clayton Lewis
which contains signatures.

in the State of Western Australia, am the promoter of this petition

PETITION IN RELATION TO ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (2014)

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to the introduction of the Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill (2014).

We, the undersigned, say the WA State Government has missed an important opportunity to address racial inequalities in the 1972 Act, and that the proposed changes are mostly aimed at speeding up approval processes for industry, and undermine, rather than improve Aboriginal heritage protection.

Traditional Owners have been excluded from discussing the Department of Aboriginal Affairs' disturbing recent changes to the administration of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA). After a very short consultation period regarding John Avery's 2012 discussion paper on AHA reform, a draft Bill was released in 2014 which:

- *delegates to the CEO of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) the power to change the register of Aboriginal sites, including removing sites from the register; and*
- *gives the CEO the power to make declarations that there are no sites in particular areas, so that developers will no longer need to apply under s 18.*

The AHA Amendment Bill further reduces protection for Aboriginal sites in WA, and further marginalizes Aboriginal people from decisions about their heritage.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to:

- 1. Withdraw the Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill (2014);*
- 2. Establish an inquiry into DAA's management of Aboriginal heritage in WA;*
- 3. Form a Select Committee to develop of a proper framework to reform the AHA by*
 - *involving Aboriginal peoples in meaningful ways (e.g. as custodians of Aboriginal heritage, not just as 'stakeholders'); and*
 - *building on excellent previous suggestions for reforming the AHA (e.g. 1995 Senior Review; 1996 Evatt Review & 1997 Casey Review).*

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

I certify that this petition is in conformity with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council



CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE