

Standing Committee on Environment
and Public Affairs

Submission re Petition No.-114 -
Burial on Country of the late
Mr Howard.

On the 2nd February 2016 my
late husband Mr Howard
was found on Country.
He had tragically passed away.

My children and I proceeded
to follow Government protocol
and make application for
burial on Country.

Enclosed are documents that
can support our wish to
have a Parlimentary Enquirie
into why we weren't given
permission for Burial on Country.

We have lived on Country
permanently since May 1994.
We have a son that was
born on Country in December 1995.
All our children attended school
at Djarindjin / Lombadina Catholic School
and our youngest child now
boards away at La Salle College
Perth.

My late husband myself and our
children and grandchildren have
a cultural connection to the
Country and our twin boys
are buried on our family
block.

These Aboriginal Corporations that have opposed burial, the Directors do not and have not lived on Country. They reside in surrounding major communities and surrounding towns eg Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing.

There have been other burials on Country at Family Blocks on the Dampier Peninsula, eight that I know of and not one of those family groups were treated the way my children and I were. The government as never written to an Aboriginal Community regarding burial on Country and The Bardi Jawi PBC have never refused such a sensitive request and they should not have interfered because we got approval from Aboriginal Lands Trust who are the landowner for Reserve 20927, were Djarajung, Cygnet Bay is located, Howard Block. My late husband's last wish was to be laid next to our twin boys on Country and The Government denied him this.

The Government states that their decision was based on the Cemeteries Act but I still can't comprehend this.

During the process I did
phone the Ombudsman Office
in Perth but was told
my complaint didn't fit the
criteria or something to
those words.

I can be contacted on
08 91924523. if needed.

Looking forward to your reply.

Kind Regards

Lynette Howard

17th April 2016.