



The Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chair Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
Perth WA 6000

Petition No 91 - Aboriginal Heritage Sites

Dear Hon Simon O'Brien MLC,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on behalf of the WA Greens in support of petition No 91 which I tabled in the Legislative Council on 11 & 13 August, 2015, on behalf of the Aboriginal Heritage Action Alliance (AHAA).

The petition in question recommended the following three actions:

- 1) Re-registration of the Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga) and 35 other registered sacred sites recently deregistered by the WA Government's Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) using flawed legal advice on the definition of 'sacred site' under s 5b of the Aboriginal Heritage Act obtained by the Chair of the ACMC from the State Solicitor's Office, subsequently overturned in Justice Chaney's 1 April 2015 WA Supreme Court ruling in Robinson v ACMC.**
- 2) Abandonment of the proposed Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill 2014, which would make it easier to destroy or damage places of significance to Aboriginal people throughout Western Australia.**
- 3) In consultation with Aboriginal people, establishment of an inquiry to review the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, its administration by WA's Department of Aboriginal Affairs and its Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee to ensure ongoing protection of places of**

It is my understanding that the principal petitioner has provided you with a very detailed submission outlining the reasons why the council should consider the above actions, and I strongly support all the elements of that submission.

For those reasons, and many others which have been amply canvassed in AHAA's previous submission, as well as numerous submissions by experts and interested parties on these matters to the Department (now unaccountably expunged from its website), it is argued that the Legislative Council should establish a Standing Committee to properly investigate the matters raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely,

# ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

Member for the  
Mining and Pastoral Region



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Chapple".

The Hon Robin Chapple MLC  
**Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region**  
**18 September 2015**