I, Clayton Lewis, of WA
am the promoter of this petition which contains 76 signatures.

PETITION

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 respectfully oppose the introduction of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill, 2021* (the **Bill**) in its current form. The Bill does not meet its objectives in the provision of protection for Indigenous cultural heritage. Under the Bill, the Indigenous holders of cultural heritage ('cultural knowledge holders' in the Bill) are unable to secure protection for their cultural heritage without the on-going agreement of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Under the Bill the Minister may, and, we believe, will, refuse or withdraw any protected status for cultural heritage in favour of approving proponent applications to harm cultural heritage. This belief has merit based on the history of the Ministerial approvals regime under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (WA), 1972*, which the Bill will replace.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Legislative Council will delay introduction or passage of the Bill until such time as it protects the right of cultural heritage holders to protect areas of cultural heritage from interference, damage, desecration or destruction unless they have given their current, free, prior and informed consent for such interference, damage, desecration or destruction to occur.

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