

To: [Committee, JSCNA \(REPS\)](#)

The Committee Secretariat

The Joint Standing Committee of Northern Australia

PO. Box 6021 Parliament of Australia, Parliament House,
Canberra ACT. 2600 Australia

**Senate Inquiry into Destruction of Aboriginal Heritage – 46,000 year old caves at Juukan Gorge,
Pilbara region – Western Australia**

June 19th 2020

SUBMISSION

Destruction of Aboriginal Culture and Sites
– Mining in Australia in 2020

ABORIGINAL CULTURE BLASTED AWAY in The Pilbara

ABORIGINAL and First Australian Cultural Sites, should be EXEMPT FROM EXPLORATION AND MINING. FULL STOP. Why destroy aboriginal culture for a mine? Mines have short lifespans.

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Mining companies are just doing what legislation allows. Why blame them? / *refer to the destruction of 46,000 year old caves at Juukan Gorge Pilbara region, Western Australia, by Australian Mining Giant – Rio Tinto.*

Mining Legislation in Australia needs an overhaul. Tomorrow is too late. The simple answer is to exempt zones of aboriginal indigenous culture from exploration and mining. This should also include zones of endangered environment, and waterways.

Just DO NOT HAND OUT EXPLORATION LICENSES AND MINING APPROVALS, TO KILL INDIGENOUS CULTURE. How simple could it be. Indigenous employment and other Jobs could be created by making these zones places of interest for tourism.

No one would consider destroying or handing out Exploration and Mining licenses under the Pyramids of Egypt, or the Chianti regions of Italy or other. If in doubt? Just ask a child, this question.

Mines have short lifespans, of only 20-30 years. Why destroy Australian Indigenous culture for a mine? Surely, it can last more than 46,000 years. Protect these sites from Exploration and Mining. Place fences around them. A perfect reason for tourists to visit Australian Indigenous History before it is completely blasted away by Australian and overseas Mining Companies.

The COVID 19, 2020 shutdown, has exposed the shortcomings in Government Legislation, Federal and State in many areas, to all. Indigenous Australians have suffered enough.

Indigenous sites and culture, matter! If Australia does not care. The world does!

I care.

Claudia Tregoning (nee Marconi)