



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requires Immediate Reform

- A National Crisis Meeting of Aboriginal leaders was held on 17 June 2020 in response to the destruction of a precious heritage site at Juukan Gorge in Western Australia by Rio Tinto.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people right around Australia are outraged that this immoral act appears to have been lawful. This latest destruction has made headlines but it's just the tip of the iceberg. Many similar incidents have been taking place across Australia for decades.
- This has been allowed to happen because governments from across the political spectrum have rarely cared enough about Aboriginal heritage to stop it being destroyed.
- Current legislation is all about regulating destruction, rather than protecting, enhancing and educating about our living cultures. These are unique to this country and the common heritage of all Australians.
- Leaders have decided that First Nations organisations and people need to come together on a national level to stop this senseless destruction.
- We need an urgent review of heritage protection across Australia and a moratorium on the destruction of any more of our sites while this is taking place.
- The review should be done by representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments in partnership to provide a solid platform for negotiations to settle on a new national heritage protection regime.
- NTS Goldfields Ltd supports Aboriginal people in the struggle to have heritage sites protected from destruction and recognises the need for major reform of Aboriginal heritage legislation in Western Australia, to bring it in line with that which is afforded to non-Aboriginal heritage sites.

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