



# **Aboriginal Heritage Action Alliance**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 18th November 12.00pm**

**The tabling of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2020 is a shocking betrayal of Indigenous Western Australians.**

**The WA Government's mishandling of process with the Bill clearly demonstrates their on-going disrespect of Indigenous rights. The State's patronising approach to making laws on behalf of Indigenous Western Australians without their collaboration or knowledge is a breach of Australia's commitments under the UNDRIP and further entrenches systemic racism in WA.**

**In September AHAA filed an Early Warning and Urgent Request to the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) outlining the structural inequities in the Bill, which is weighted in favor of the proponent. The UN is now considering reviewing the Bill for its lack of adherence to International Indigenous rights and racial equity standards.**

**Overnight AHAA have communicated to UNCERD to urgently attend to our complaint as the Western Australian government have signalled they could pass the Bill under expedited procedures enable by the COVID crisis. Potentially the law could pass before parliament breaks this month. All this amongst growing anger and disappointment from Aboriginal leaders, key organisations and supporters across the state.**

*'The Aboriginal Heritage Action Alliance (AHAA) is a community action group, led by senior Traditional Owners with cultural authority from across Western Australia, working to protect and preserve cultural heritage for all.'*