

**Submission
No 1**

**INQUIRY INTO ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE
(CULTURE IS IDENTITY) BILL 2022**

Name: Mr Robert Syron

Date Received: 17 August 2022

Upper House committee inquiry opens into the Aboriginal Cultural
Heritage (Culture Is Identity) Bill 2022

My name is Robert Syron

I am a Registered Aboriginal Owner “through the legal process” Office Of The Register Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1986, a Descendant of Aboriginal (-Malookut-lightning AKA Jack Cook) and (Jessie Cook- Nee Brummy) from the Barrington West Road known as the blacks camp as it was called.

I am also a Descendant of Aboriginal Robert Clarke of the Manning River and many other Aboriginal family's on the East Coast. I served in the RAR- Royal Aust Regiment, Rwandan War veteran 1994-95/ Meritorious Unit Citation, ANZAC Peace Prize 1995.

My aboriginal Grandmother Born 1911 on the Barrington River NSW her mother also born on the Barrington River who's father was Malookut Lightning AKA-Jack cook born on the Barrington River where his and family are buried on the old camp site.

My Aboriginal Grandfather Born 1907 Nabiack NSW, My father Born 1941 Gloucester and his 16 brothers and sisters Born Gloucester. I would say I have the credentials and knowledge to have a voice in regards to the true Guringai, Kuringgai people culture and history. Our clan would gather fresh water crayfish, mussels, catfish, Perch, Herring, Eels, Mullet from various rivers from the Williams, Dungog, Patterson, Hunter, Barrington and the Gloucester rivers.kangaroo , Wallaby, Paddy melon, Opossum, Jew lizard, Porky pine, wombat, emu, wonga, Bush turkey and Swan, where only some of the favourite foods and some only to be eaten by elders.

My family The true Guringai people and location -The kabook and Watoo people
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/15/the-kabook-watoo/>

My family have maintained a continues connection to our country tribal areas. 1956 my ancestors were removed from the “Blacks Camp” Barrington west Road Barrington Nsw that was granted to them in the 1880s. as Guringay , gringai or spelt Guringai people who have a well recorded history from the first white settlement 1820 Hunter valley Nsw, As registered Aboriginal owners we have been excluded from Aboriginal Land Councils in land dealings, agreements and denied the cultural right to maintain and practice culture on our own country tribal areas and hunting grounds.

This power given to the Aboriginal land Councils has stopped us from any entitlements in royalty's for our Aboriginal corporation and we will never be able to move forward enabling us to create

opportunities for employment setting up tourist company's and more over the Barrington and Barrington Tops national parks areas NSW.

Dungog Council recently has closed a deal an Indigenous land use agreement with karuah Aboriginal land council knowing and acknowledging us on the Dungog council web site even after emailing the mayor and councilors our connection prior to closing the deal and where not included.

We where also currently in the Native title courts recently trying to negotiate an ILUA funded by NTSCOPRT represented by Tony MacAvoy but have withdrawn that because of concerns I will not disclose here.

I was also denied the cultural rights to maintain and practice culture on Worimi lands as a Registered Aboriginal owner of Worimi lands and again we have not been included in any land dealings or royalties.

We will forever be in this position.

Kind regards

Robert Syron

Registered Aboriginal owner of Worimi Guringai Lands

Australian Rwandan War veteran 1994-95, ANZAC Peace Prize 1995, Meritorious Unit Citation.

Guringai language <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0geN8vuoCw>

kabook and Wattoo people <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/15/the-kabook-wattoo/>

We acknowledge the Traditional Lands of the Worimi , Guringai or spelt Guringay and Biripi people of the kutthung language the Custodians, spiritual and cultural owners of these lands. We acknowledge our Elders past and present to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Gringai continue to practice Culture and have a strong connection to our lands and secrete sites where our ancestors lay in the Barrington / Gloucester Manning Valley area.