

**Submission  
No 5**

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

**Name:** Ms Patricia Johnson

**Date Received:** 9 September 2022

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We are four elders and great grandchildren who are direct descendants of Nellie and her parents from the Willandra and Pooncarie regions of western NSW, Aunt's Priscilla Biggs nee Johnson and Eunice Hudson both born on Menindee mission 1940, Uncle Albert Johnson and Patricia Johnson living in Pooncarie, both born Lake Cargelligo after our families second/third removal from our country which we still tell our stories and with validated evidence that gave us our 2015 determination after 18 years

We have lived our whole lives with disappointment through dispossession and greed that continues to remove any hope for our children and grandchildren of any recognition and inclusion when we are never included to be a part of the decision making processes when we see our culture and heritage destroyed by an advisory group appointed and supported by the government including not progressing the Part 4a full handback for Mungo since 2016 under existing legislation has been refused and never explained

For eighteen years until 2015 we supported our rights under the federal Native title for this recognition only to see again with this proposal to remove our identity, worth, history and custodianship, removed and given to anyone who identifies as First nations person from Sydney or interstate with no connection to our country. We feel our stories and our cultural heritage will not be represented by a advisory group proposed by government as these are "our families stories" and experiences we have passed down to our children since the 1840's when the first squatters invaded our lands. The passed-on histories and language some of us still speak will eventually be lost and replaced by a newly created version that has no accountability as seen by the Burial of the Mungo people as we were excluded from dissenting and even removed from that advisory group to allow this passage of people from the AAG to rewrite the history for their own elevation and maintaining the governments agenda.

The advisory group and the land council have actively been involved and perpetrated violence and selling lands within our native title area against our families wishes to reduce any open talks about identity and inclusion, histories and culture and the known traditional families of the area are again being reduced to the mission days of assimilation by this NSW legislation, this is just a new version of the same mind set using identified persons this time for deflecting responsibility and accountability with this legislation of their own design that will brush aside any future truth telling or reconciliation back as its an "aboriginal problem" and not our settler community responsibility.

After 234 years our only legacy will we hoping that Nellie's canoe in the South Australian Museum will continue telling our stories for our grandchildren and be protected from this terrible legislation and their special selected administrators designed to split community and increase lateral violence through administrative empowerment of this legislation and handing over our lands that is designed for one purpose. We are opposed to this legislation as it has been designed without us and yet purported to be for us.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/mar/04/reuniting-indigenous-sticks-with-their-stories-the-museum-on-a-mission-to-give-back>