

Dr Jaqueline Dewar  
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology  
and the Arts Committee  
S1 57  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Dr Dewar

I am advised that during the recent visit to Flinders Ranges, South Australia, the issue of inadequate protection of Aboriginal art sites at Sacred Canyon and Chambers Gorge was raised with the Senators by both staff from the Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia, and Adnyamathanha community members Cliff Coulthard and Pauline Coulthard.

Accordingly, please accept this submission to the Inquiry into Australia's National Parks, Conservation Reserves and Marine Protected Areas. The Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) are deeply concerned regarding the lack of protection offered to two significant rock art sites in South Australia's Flinders Ranges.

Sacred Canyon is immediately adjacent to the Flinders Ranges National Park and the rock art is being damaged, largely through graffiti and other deliberate vandalism. Sacred Canyon could easily be added to the Flinders Ranges National Park, a move which is likely to add additional protection to this site.

Similarly, further north, the extraordinary gallery of rock art at Chambers Gorge (mid way between the Flinders Ranges National Park and the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park) is also being degraded by graffiti and other vandalism. Chambers Gorge is largely contained within one paddock of the Wertaloona pastoral lease, which is currently on the market. This is a rare opportunity that would allow both Commonwealth and State Governments to consider alternative tenure arrangements for the better protection of the rock art together with the numerous geological and biological assets of Chambers Gorge.

We trust the Committee will give the issues raised in this submission due consideration.

Yours sincerely

Chairperson Adnyamathanha Lands Council  
29<sup>th</sup>. November 2006