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報告顯示，力拓爆炸前6年，46,000年歷史嘅岩石洞穴前6年已經知道佢嘅重要性

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喺2014年喺其中一個朱坎岩洞遺址嘅發掘中發現咗超過4萬年人類居住嘅證據。(提供)

礦業巨頭力拓六年前收到警報，話佢上個月喺西澳皮爾巴拉地區爆炸嘅至少一個洞穴係「澳洲最高嘅考古意義」。

呢啲洞穴遺址係澳洲最古老嘅，有證據顯示人類持續居住可以追溯到46,000年前。

六年前向力拓同普圖昆蒂庫拉馬同皮尼庫拉(PKKP)呢個地區嘅原住民提供嘅建議從來都有公開發佈過。

重點：

- 呢個地點嘅報導形容其中一個洞穴係「皮爾巴拉唯一一個包含呢啲物質文化方面嘅洞穴」。
- 力拓喺耗資150億美元擴建皮爾巴拉礦之前，就被告知

美國廣播公司已經獲得報告內容嘅摘要，
同埋早期嘅考古調查工作同埋喺2004年嘅
遺址發掘。

呢個遺產嘅重要性

- 傳統業主喺2015年由力拓資助嘅紀錄片中反對毀滅洞穴

考古學家 Michael Slack 博士喺2014年嘅
報告文件證實咗其中一個被爆炸嘅地點，
即係朱坎 -2 (布洛克 -21) 洞穴，喺澳洲係罕見嘅，而且喺皮爾巴拉係獨一無二。

Dr Slack 寫道：「呢個地點被發現包含一個跨越超過 4 萬年嘅文化序列，有高頻率嘅剝落石文物、罕有嘅動物遺跡、獨特嘅石器、保存嘅人毛，仲有沉積物含有花粉記錄，記錄咗幾千年嘅環境變化。」 Dr Slack 寫道。

「喺好多呢啲方面，呢個遺址係皮爾巴拉唯一一個包含呢啲物質文化方面嘅遺址，並且透過 DNA 分析，同呢啲古老嘅更新世古代嘅當代傳統擁有者提供咗一個可能嘅強烈連結。」



米高·斯拉克話佢相信喺力拓爆炸呢個地區之前，朱坎峽谷仲有更多嘅挖掘工作要做 (ABC 皮爾巴拉：凱倫·米歇爾莫爾) 。

斯拉克博士同佢嘅團隊喺2014年喺洞穴入面移除咗7,000件文物，而執行摘要指出：「布洛克21/朱坎2嘅發掘結果係澳洲最高嘅考古意義。」

力拓資助咗慶祝洞穴嘅紀錄片

Rio Tinto seemed to be aware of the unique value of the site the year after they received the archaeological report and in 2015, the mining company funded a documentary called Ngurra Minarli, which means In Our Country.



7,000 artefacts were discovered during the excavation of the Juukan-2 site. (Supplied)

The documentary featured PKKP traditional owners expressing concern about protecting the remaining cultural sites in the area, including the Juukan rock caves.

Traditional owner Harold Ashburton said he had recently taken his two sons to the area.

"I showed them Brockman, where my grandfather was born, first time they'd been out in a grandfather's country," he said in the documentary.

"They turned and said, 'It's f*ed because of mining. What [have] they done to the country?'"**

In an interview with RN Breakfast, Chris Salisbury, chief executive of Rio Tinto iron ore described the destruction of the caves as a

"misunderstanding".

He said the company was sorry for the "distress and anguish" of the PKKP people and took "full accountability".

"Something's gone terribly wrong here and we've committed to a comprehensive review of all of our heritage process and moreover committed to advocating for legislative change to prevent this sort of thing happening, should it be necessary," Mr Salisbury said.

"We can't move back, we can't keep looking backwards, we want to repair our relationship with traditional owners."

Rock shelters were already doomed

Rio Tinto's Brockman 4 mine was expanding and operating less than one kilometre away from the Juukan rock cave sites when Dr Slack's team conducted its 2014 excavation of the site.

The dig excavated down 1.8 metres to bedrock across a 15-square-metre section in the centre of Juukan 2.

It revealed compelling new evidence for the rarity and importance of both Juukan 1 and Juukan 2.



The Juukan caves were excavated in 2014 and determined to be of the "highest archaeological significance".
(Supplied)

However, because the dig was described by Dr Slack as "extensive salvage excavations" it appeared that by 2014, both caves were already doomed.

Only months before the dig started, Rio Tinto [secured a Section 18 consent](#) under the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act in December 2013.

The permit meant the company could not be prosecuted for "excavating, destroying, damaging, concealing or in any way altering any Aboriginal site".

This consent was issued by the WA Registrar of Aboriginal Sites despite an earlier report in December 2008 by Dr Slack, pointing to "high archaeological significance" of at least three sites in the region, which included the two Juukan caves.

第一次對洞穴進行考古評估，建議進一步研究，並可能根據西澳遺產法列入名單同保護，係喺2004年進行。

除咗其他地點之外，佢建議公司同佢嘅員工「應該避開」呢啲洞穴，因為佢哋含有「大量文化材料」。



根據《原住民遺產法》第 18 條，力拓獲得咗爆炸朱坎峽谷1同2號嘅許可（提供：普烏圖·昆蒂·庫拉馬同皮尼庫拉原住民公司）。

喺2008年嘅報告入面，斯拉克博士確實測試咗12個岩石避難所嘅挖掘，同埋喺布羅克曼山周圍嘅20個開放式文物散點同埋布爾吉達溪、鴨溪同比斯利河嘅上流域進行咗額外嘅記錄同繪製地圖。

「喺記錄到嘅遺址當中，大部分（30個）被認為係低考古意義30，9個被認為係中等意義，而3個被評估為高考古意義，」Slack 博士報告。

喺佢哋被引爆前十二年，斯萊克博士已經特別指出咗朱坎洞穴係特別重要。

佢寫道：「BROCK-21 [Juukan 2] 被評估為具有高度考古意義。」

「我哋嘅發掘顯示呢個礦產非常古老，而且有可能仲舊。

「雖然我哋喺呢份報告入面只係提出咗一啲初步嘅分析，但係對石頭同骨頭嘅分析都需要做更多嘅細化。」

但報告指出，即使「喺呢個分析嘅早期階段，我哋都可以絕對顯示 BROCK-21 遺址有資格」根據《原住民遺產法》列為受保護遺址，「基於研究潛力同具有高度考古意義嘅代表性」。



力拓2010年擴大營運，包括兩個岩洞附近嘅布洛克曼4礦。(巴布斯·麥克休：ABC 鄉村)

好大程度上係因為呢份報告，到咗2013年，朱坎洞穴已經被列入法案嘅保護區名單 — 同年里約獲得咗摧毀佢哋嘅許可。

Dr Slack 喺2008年嘅工作係力拓由2010年開始以150億美元擴大喺皮爾巴拉嘅營運嘅前奏，擴大現有礦場同建造新礦場，令鐵礦產量增加50%。

布羅克曼4號礦場 — 對朱坎洞穴嚟講係致命嘅 — 係其中一個擴大緊嘅礦場。

發佈咗 2020 年 6 月 5 號星期五上午 7 點 08 分，更新咗 2020 年 6 月 5 號星期五下晝 2 點 52 分