

土著调查 澳大利亚原住民

●这篇文章已有4年多了

力拓集团为扩建铁矿，炸毁了拥有 46,000 年历史的原住民遗址

矿业公司获准炸毁 **Juukan Gorge** 洞穴，该洞穴为当今的传统所有者提供了 4000 年的遗传联系



位于尤坎峡谷的这个洞穴，被称为尤坎2号，在周日的一次采矿爆炸中被摧毁。该洞穴的建造许可是根据1972年起草的过时的原住民遗产法获得的。图片：普图·昆蒂·库拉玛和皮尼库拉原住民公司。

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西澳大利亚州的一处圣地曾有 46,000 年的连续居住历史，并为当今的传统拥有者提供了 4,000 年的遗传联系，但在铁矿扩建过程中遭到破坏。

这个洞穴位于哈默斯利山脉的尤坎峡谷，距离汤姆·普莱斯山约60公里，是皮尔巴拉地区西部最古老的洞穴之一，也是澳大利亚唯一一个在上一个冰河时代仍有人类

居住痕迹的内陆遗址。周日，它与另一个圣地一起被炸毁。

2013年，矿业公司力拓集团根据西澳过时的原住民遗产法获得部长批准，可以摧毁或破坏该遗址，而该法律于1972年起草，旨在维护采矿业的利益。

获得同意一年后，为了抢救所有可以保存的东西，进行了一次考古挖掘，结果发现该遗址的历史比之前认为的要长一倍多，并且拥有丰富的文物，包括圣物。

最珍贵的是一段有4000年历史的人类头发辫，由来自不同人的头发编织而成，DNA检测显示，这些人正是现今Puutu Kunti Kurrama和Pinikura传统主人的直系祖先。

但过时的《原住民遗产法》不允许根据新信息重新协商同意书。因此，尽管普图昆蒂库拉玛和皮尼库拉（PKKP）原住民公司与力拓集团定期会面，但仍无法阻止爆破的进行。

库尔德工人党负责人伯切尔·海耶斯告诉《卫报》澳大利亚版：“这是皮尔巴拉地区最神圣的遗址之一……我们希望保护好这个地区。”

“It is precious to have something like that plaited hair, found on our country, and then have further testing link it back to the Kurrama people. It's something to be proud of, but it's also sad. Its resting place for 4,000 years is no longer there.”

Hayes said the site had been used as a campsite by Kurrama moving through the area, including in the memory of some elders.

“We want to do the same, we want to show the next generation,” he said. “Now, if this site has been destroyed, then we can tell them stories but we can't show them photographs or take them out there to stand at the rock shelter and say: this is where your ancestors lived, starting 46,000 years ago.”



© The cave in Juukan Gorge that was blasted. It is the only inland site in Australia to show signs of continual human occupation through the last Ice Age. Photograph: The Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Aboriginal Corporation.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act has been up for review, in some form, since 2012. Draft legislation put forward by the former Liberal government in 2014 was rejected after even a National party MP argued it was unfair to traditional owners and did not allow for adequate consultation.

Rewriting the act was listed as a priority for Labor before their election win in 2017, and last month WA's Aboriginal affairs minister Ben Wyatt pushed back the final consultation on his draft bill until later this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The new legislation will provide options to appeal or amend agreements to allow for the destruction of heritage sites, Wyatt said. He wasn't aware of the risk to the Juukan site, or its destruction, until Monday.

"It will provide for agreements between traditional owners and proponents to include a process to consider new information that may come to light, and allow the parties to be able to amend the agreements by mutual consent," he said. "The legislation will also provide options for appeal should either party not be compliant with the agreement."

In its submission to the legislative review, Rio Tinto said it was broadly supportive of the proposed reform but that consent orders granted under the current system should be carried over, and that rights of appeal should be fixed, not broad or subject to extensions, lest it "prolong approvals or appeals processes at a critical point in the project."

A spokesman from Rio Tinto said the company had a relationship with the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people dating back three decades, "and we have been working together in relation to the Juukan area over the past 17 years".

"Rio Tinto has worked constructively together with the PKKP People on a range of heritage matters and has, where practicable, modified its operations to avoid heritage impacts and to protect places of cultural significance to the group," the company said.

该矿业公司于2011年与传统业主签署了原住民产权协议，四年后，原住民产权主张才获得联邦法院的正式批准。2014年，他们协助进行了抢救性挖掘，最终揭开了该遗址的真实年龄。

领导此次挖掘工作的考古学家迈克尔·斯莱克博士表示，这是一次千载难逢的发现。

2008年进行的1米试挖表明该遗址已有约2万年历史，但此次打捞探险发现了一个“非常重要的遗址”，收集了7,000多件文物，包括有4万年历史的网格石、数千块从垃圾堆中取出的骨头（这些骨头表明随着气候变化动物群也发生了变化）以及圣物。

洞穴底部平坦，土壤和沙子堆积颇厚，部分区域形成了近两米厚的层。皮尔巴拉地区的大多数考古挖掘都发现了30厘米厚的岩石。

最重要的是，考古记录并没有在上一个冰河时代消失。澳大利亚大多数内陆考古遗址表明，在距今2.3万至1.9万年前的冰河时代，随着土地干涸和水源枯竭，人们迁离了这里。来自尤坎峡谷的考古证据表明，这里自始至终都有人居住。

“这种地方可不常见，你本来可以在那里工作好几年，”他说。“一件事情要有多重要，才能得到社会广泛重视？”他问道。

●本文于2020年5月27日进行了修改，以纠正Burchell Hayes的拼写。

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