



**To Jane Delany-John
Gomeri Traditional Custodians
Whitehaven Coal.**

**RE: Whitehaven's request for a ban on any gathering or protest on Monday 16th
& Tuesday 17th February 2015.**

Hello Jane and thank you for your call and request for a letter from OLOWOF inc.

Our Land Our Water Our Future is a non for profit incorporated association with a very clear constitution All available on line at www.ourlandourwaterourfuture.org.

We have arranged a Vigil on Saturday 14th of Feb between 5pm and 8pm in the Maules Creek Area. This Vigil is on crown land away from any roads or private lands with the full support of the local police, RFS, CWA and all the local community, with the highest respect.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/822157811177461/>

The Vigil is a peaceful gathering open to all people from everywhere. We have a variety of spiritual groups attending to share in our common belief that, in a democratic society, all people have a fundamental human right to freedom of spiritual practise. This extends to all people, Christians, Muslims, First Nation or any other group or community that honours spiritual teachings of the highest moral and ethical standing.

Our group has no involvement in any kind of protest or action around Whitehaven at any time, or in any other place or with any other corporation.

We do however fully respect the Gomeri Nations right to freedom of spiritual practise and their legal access to the places that they consider as sacred and precious.

I am happy to put in writing that we have no plans of any kind to be involved in any illegal activities Or protest or gathering that is not in accord with our highest principles.

We also retain the right to peaceful gathering and prayer at any time we feel appropriate.

In regards to February the 16th & 17th our Vigil is on Saturday 14th of February and there is no conflict of interest.

I would however like to add, that the Gomeri Nation (in my understanding) have the legal right to do Ceremony at their sacred sites on Feb 16th and 17th (under the anti discrimination act) and they have worked tirelessly for this right. Many of the elders are old, some are in palliative care and this has been arranged and agreed on for sometime now. Whitehaven Coal also in my understanding can begin legal clearing of the Forest from Sunday 15th of February and any postponement would deprive the Gomeri Nation of their legal right, as at least one of four remaining sites is within the clearing area.

As the president and representative of OLOWOF Inc I would insist that Whitehaven Coal not begin any clearing until after the Gomeri Nation have had the opportunity to pay their last respects on their last remaining sacred sites (on their original lands) before they are destroyed forever.

I do not believe this is too much to ask and is simply an act of common decency and respect.

We support them completely through prayer and vigil that is our way and our fundamental human right.

Yours in Truth,

Paul Robert Burton
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