

Mark Parnell MLC

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Historic day as Arkaroola finally gets permanent protection

The Upper House of State Parliament has just passed a Bill to permanently protect from mining the iconic mountains of Arkaroola in the State's far North.

The legal protection is the culmination of a long-running community and Greens campaign to ensure this magnificent part of our State is no longer threatened by damaging mining activity.

"This is a wonderful, historic day," said Greens Parliamentary leader Mark Parnell.

"It's taken a long time, but finally a law has been passed that ensures the permanent protection of the world famous mountains of Arkaroola.

"If a future Government wants to let the miners back in they will have to over-turn this Act of Parliament. I am totally confident that this will never happen.

"It is wonderful that all sides of politics have finally accepted what the Greens have been arguing all along: that some places are simply too precious to mine," he said.

In passing the Bill, the Greens moved 2 successful amendments to ensure appropriate consultation with the traditional owners from the Adnyamathanha people over the management of the land.

"As this is such an important piece of legislation, it is vital we get it right and ensure that all traditional owners have a say in how Arkaroola will be managed," said Mr Parnell.

"The Greens have been very proud to stand alongside the Sprigg Family, Adnyamathanha Elders and the many passionate environmental and heritage campaigners from across the state and across the world who have fought to protect this precious place.

"They can all be very proud of what they have achieved," he said.