

RAINBOW SERPENT AND A MINE

(Jack Green/Neil Murray)

Traditional owner Jack Green asked me to write a song about the devastating impact of the McArthur River mine on his country and people. We met in Darwin and he told me the story. The place names- Djerrimini, Kantjurrinyi, Wirrini, Dadalangnyi are four major significant sites along the river.

Djerrimini, Kantjurrinyi, Wirrini, Dadalangnyi

The old ones didn't know They were never told
The miners would divert the river and dig a hole
Underneath where the water once flowed
They cut the rainbow serpent and put in a mine

They dug up its guts and brought em up to the air
Those rocks burned toxic fumes everywhere
Not supposed to be like that
Gotta stay underground in its body where it belongs.

They cut the rainbow serpent and put in a mine
Now we getting sick all the time
Oh you cry when you see, cry when you see what they done
They cut the rainbow serpent and put in a mine.

Djerrimini, Kantjurrinyi, Wirrini, Dadalangnyi

40 years we been fighting to get control
Of our homelands where we live and always roamed
But the government and mining companies don't care
they do what they want and don't listen to us
All the Gudanji, Garrawa, Mara and Yanyila people
We got to get some justice one day soon
miners still work like white ants
and some of them are getting sick now too.

They cut the rainbow serpent and put in a mine
Now we getting sick all the time
Oh you cry when you see, cry when you see what they done
They cut the rainbow serpent and put in a mine.
Cry when you see, cry when you see what they done
They cut the rainbow serpent and put in a mine.
All the Gudanji, Garrawa, Mara and Yanyila people
We got to get some justice one day soon
Djerrimini, Kantjurrinyi, Wirrini, Dadalangnyi