

PETITION IN RELATION TO
THE PROTECTION OF ROCK ART ON MURUJUGA

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned ask the Legislative Council to oppose the plans for the continued industrialisation of the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago (Murujuga) reported in recent media. This is of great concern to our community, as there are alternative sites available for industry which won't infringe on heritage values of the region, in particular the Maitland Industrial Estate, located in close proximity to Murujuga.

The petitioners reiterate the call for the World Heritage Listing of the Dampier Archipelago at the earliest opportunity available to the State Government.

The petitioners oppose further development of heavy industry on Murujuga, and request that the State Government commit to review the following two documents: 30 August 2002 'Report into the Maitland Industrial Precinct' prepared for Hon Eric Ripper MLA (Deputy Premier), Hon Clive Brown MLA (Minister for State Development), Hon Allannah MacTiernan MLA (Minister for Planning and Infrastructure), and Hon Tom Stephens MLC (Minister for the Pilbara), by the City of Karratha and the District Chamber of Commerce and Industries; and December 2002 'Maitland Heavy Industry Estate: Assessment and Comparison with the Burrup Peninsula Industrial Estate' prepared for the Shire of Roebourne.

The petitioners call on the Government to evaluate the cumulative airshed of pollutants and emissions of current industry on rock art in the Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga), and quantify the increase in emission loads from known projected industries for the Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga).

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

I, Judith Hugo
Australia, am the promoter of this petition which contains signatures.

in the State of Western

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC, Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council of Western Australia
18-32 Parliament Place
West Perth WA 6005

13 September 2018

Petition No. 074 – Protection of rock art on Murujuga

Friends of Australian Rock Art has had a longstanding interest in the protection of the ancient rock art of Murujuga/the Burrup Peninsula, as acknowledged by Malcolm Turnbull, Federal Minister for Environment & Heritage when he announced the National Heritage listing of the Dampier Archipelago in 2007.¹

Plea 1: in order to prevent further compromising the globally significant heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula, we request that the State Government and the Department of State Development abandon their current plans for further industrial development on the Burrup Peninsula.²

Plea 2: we further request that the State Government locate all future industrial development to the nearby purpose built Maitland Heavy Industrial Estate, in line with recommendations made in the following 2002 reports:

- Astron Environmental, 2002. *The Maitland Heavy Industrial Estate: Assessment and Comparison with the Burrup Peninsula Industrial Estate. Prepared for Shire of Roebourne.*³
- Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., 2002. *Report into the Maitland Industrial Precinct. Prepared for Hon Eric Ripper, MLA – Deputy Premier, Hon Clive Brown, MLA – Minister for State Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLA – Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon Tom Stephens, MLC – Minister for Pilbara.*⁴

The following 1993 report also highlighted the suitability of parts of the Karratha area for industrial development away from the Burrup rock art:

Department of Resource Development, 1993. *Pilbara Heavy Industry Site Evaluation Karratha Area. Prepared by Peter Long Fraser Consultants August 1993.*⁵

We urgently request that the State Government review the reports cited above which highlight the viability and strategic benefits of locating future industry in the Maitland Industrial Estate or Karratha areas. Pipeline infrastructure is already in place at Maitland for a power station and new product can easily be piped back to the port facility at King Bay, which is seeking to expand its operations. Maitland is an obvious and economically viable alternative to the Burrup Peninsula, and would serve to protect the irreplaceable cultural heritage values of the Burrup rock art.

Plea 3: we congratulate the State Government on its recent commitment to nominating the Dampier Archipelago to the UNESCO Tentative World Heritage list and ask that the Government follow through on this commitment immediately.

We also reiterate our request that the State Government desist from its current actions in encouraging further industrial development on the Burrup Peninsula, which may undermine chances of a successful UNESCO World Heritage nomination, as highlighted in recent comments by Dr Carmen Lawrence, former Chair of the Australian Heritage Commission and former WA Premier.⁶

¹ <http://www.dampierrockart.net/Media/2007-07-03%20Dampier%20Archipelago%20Joins%20National%20Heritage%20List-Turnbull%20Media.pdf>

² <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-20/potential-further-industrial-development-on-burrup-peninsula-wa/9677310>

³ <http://www.fara.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/THE-MAITLAND-HEAVY-INDUSTRIAL-ESTATE-2.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.fara.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/KDCCI-paper-on-Maitland-29-Aug-2002.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.fara.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/1993-08-Pilbara-Heavy-Industry-Site-Evaluation-Karratha-Area.pdf>

⁶ *The Australian* 26 April 2018:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfAustralianRockArt/photos/a.425200317510948.99375.396107563753557/1856647234366242/?type=3&theater>

We are gravely concerned that the State Government, while purporting to pursue World Heritage Listing, is at the same time continuing its longstanding policy of industrialisation, by encouraging Coogee Chemicals and Perdaman Chemicals & Fertilisers to move to the Burrup. Furthermore, despite FARA's appeals to have YARA International's licence withheld until the company could demonstrate that their emissions were reduced to near zero, the WA Government went ahead and granted the company a licence in June 2018 without detailed consideration of the impacts of their emissions on rock art. We consider this an irresponsible act on the part of the WA Government.

Plea 4: The petitioners also call on the Government to evaluate the cumulative airshed of pollutants and emissions of current industry on rock art in the Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga), and quantify the increase in emission loads from known projected industries for the Burrup Peninsula.

Recently published scientific research by Emeritus Professor John Black, presented to the recent Senate inquiry⁷ and corroborated more recently by the Western Australian Government Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Decision Report for the Licence Amendment L7997-2002-1a on 29 June 2018⁸ has discredited the findings of the previous CSIRO emissions monitoring regime which the State Government had relied upon to date, which had falsely claimed that industrial emissions were not damaging the rock art. Instead, Dr Ian MacLeod's recent 2017 findings show that the pH levels have dropped to 3.81 at some sites (a thousandfold increase in acidity since industry began on the Burrup in the 1960s).⁹ The laws of chemistry dictate that the outer patina of the rocks will inevitably be dissolved, and once the patina is lost, the rock art itself will be destroyed.¹⁰

The WA Minister for the Environment has requested that the EPA review the impact of emissions on rock art, and this review is expected by end of 2018. Research into the patina's rate of dissolution is about to commence in 2019 at UWA's Centre for Rock Art Research + Management. However, once the loss of patina becomes visible on a large scale, it will be too late to save the rock art.

The petitioners therefore request that the current EPA review of the impact of emissions from the Yara Pilbara ammonium nitrate facility be extended to include the *total emissions from industry and shipping*, and that it also quantify the proposed increase in emission loads from known projected industries named here, as well as those of any other proposed industries:

- Woodside is not required to publish short-term emissions data and make it available to the public. With Woodside's plans to further increase its trains, it is imperative that the WA Government acts to impose immediate restrictions on Woodside's industrial emissions.
- It is well known that ships using the Dampier Harbour have been burning cheap bunker fuel and so contributing to the corrosive airshed. We recommend that the Dampier Port Authority legislates that better, cleaner fuel be used by visiting ships.

Conclusion: After properly considering the scientific evidence cited above and reviewing the impact of emissions on the rock art, the petitioners request that, in accordance with the Precautionary Principle, Principle of Intergenerational Equity and Principle of Waste Minimisation mandated under the Environmental Protection Act, the WA Government take concrete action to reduce existing emissions near the rock art by:

- Imposing severe restrictions on emissions from existing industry and shipping to near zero;
- Enforcing real-time monitoring of emissions from all existing industry emission points;

⁷https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/BurrupPeninsula/Report

⁸[http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tables/papers.nsf/displaypaper/4011639cc1faad2c2d8fc142482582f1000541a4/\\$file/tp-1639.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tables/papers.nsf/displaypaper/4011639cc1faad2c2d8fc142482582f1000541a4/$file/tp-1639.pdf)

⁹ Black, J.L., MacLeod, I.D. & Smith, B.W., 2017. 'Theoretical effects of industrial emissions on colour change at rock art sites on Burrup Peninsula, Western Australia.' *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 12: 457-462. Available at: <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/our-work/consultation/Burrup-Rock-Art/Theoretical-effects-of-emissions-on-rock-art.Black-MacLeod-Smith.pdf>

¹⁰ Black, J.L., Box, I. & Diffey, S., 2017. 'Inadequacies of research used to monitor change to rock art and regulate industry on Murujuga ('Burrup Peninsula'), Australia'. *Rock Art Research* 34(2) November: 130-148. Available at: <http://www.fara.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AURA-paper-Black-et-al.-2Jun17.pdf>; Letter from international rock art specialist Dr Stéphane Hoerlé to WA Minister for Environment, 18 July 2018. Available at: <http://www.fara.com.au/lascaux-cave-art-expert-speaks-out/>; Black, J 2018. 'Current Assessment of the Impact of Pollution on Murujuga Rock Art'. Paper presented at the Murujuga World Heritage Summit, Karratha, 6 August 2018. Available at <https://www.fara.com.au/current-assessment-of-the-impact-of-pollution-on-murujuga-rock-art/>

- Making the real-time monitoring information available to the public at all times;
- Imposing fines significant for economic viability of the industry for each breach of the new imposed emissions limits; and
- Ensuring that all further industrial development be located on the Maitland Industrial Estate, or far enough away to ensure the protection of the globally significant rock art of the Burrup Peninsula.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray that our Government will heed the concerns of its citizens and take all possible steps to preserve this internationally significant cultural heritage site for all generations to come.

Judith Hugo

Co-convenor

Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA)



The effect of Woodside's Burrup regular gas flare emissions on nearby rock art has never been properly assessed