

11 May 2018

Project Manager
Draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
via email: burruprockart@dwer.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

DRAFT BURRUP ROCK ART STRATEGY

Thank you for your email dated 5 April 2018 providing the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA (CME) an opportunity to comment to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on how the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry in to the Protection of Aboriginal Rock Art of the Burrup Peninsula report (Inquiry Report)¹ should inform the Western Australian (WA) Government's Burrup rock art strategy (Strategy).

As documented in the Inquiry Report, the Committee's View "recognises and acknowledges the vast cultural and historical values of the rock art of the Burrup Peninsula" and the Committee formed the view "that it is critical that the petroglyphs should be protected and conserved for current and future generations"². CME supports these points and notes the "purpose" of the Strategy³ is aligned with this.

Despite the Inquiry's protracted process however, the Committee did not propose any recommendations with the Australian Greens, Coalition and Labor Senators instead each separately providing additional comments. These comments varied significantly illustrating the divergent views that exist on key matters considered in the Inquiry.

CME has reviewed the three separate sets of additional comments and does not consider these alter CME's previous recommendations which have been provided below for reference.

However, CME notes the additional comments from both the Australian Greens and the Labor Senators relating to shipping. To ensure fairness to all stakeholders, it is recommended for DWER to engage direct with Pilbara Ports Authority as part of finalising the Strategy. CME understands the Pilbara Ports Authority through the Port Hedland Industries Council has investigated ship based emissions as part of an ambient air quality monitoring program. A review of these datasets would improve DWER's understanding of what (if any) effects shipping emissions may have on the surrounding environment.

The three separate sets of additional comments noted issues with the previous consultation and involvement of the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and the need to remedy this moving forward. CME supports this and considers appropriate involvement of the MAC will be essential to the future success of any WA Government Strategy for the Burrup. This is reflected in CME's previous recommendation for creation of an additional position on the reference group for a MAC representative with the right to speak for country, and for MAC's position to be elevated to co-chair alongside DWER.

¹ Report available at:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/BurrupPeninsula/Report

² Chapter 7 Committee View, page 99

Given the completion of the Senate Inquiry, CME looks forward to DWER now prioritising progress of the WA Government's Burrup rock art strategy and looks forward to working with the Department and other relevant stakeholders during this process.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Roocke
Acting Chief Executive

cc Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

ATTACHMENT 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CME SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION: DRAFT BURRUP ROCK ART STRATEGY (NOVEMBER 2017)

Stakeholder Reference Group Membership

- The allocation of technical expertise on the Reference Group be assigned by these specific categories:
 - Rock art research and management;
 - Corrosion and weathering expert;
 - Meteorology and atmospheric modelling expertise; and
 - Data research methodology.
- A position on the Reference Group be available to each of the industrial facilities operating on the Burrup Peninsula.
- An additional position on the reference group for a MAC representative with the right to speak for country, and for MAC's position to be elevated to co-chair alongside DWER.

Governance Arrangements

- The tender process for selecting the third party to undertake monitoring and analysis be in consultation with the Burrup Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group, and MAC.
- The Reference Group, comprising balanced government and non-government membership, be empowered to review and provide advice on the adequacy of management decisions made by DWER relating to the Burrup Peninsula.

Monitoring and Analysis

- Amend the Strategy to incorporate the full body of scientific work previously conducted on the Burrup Peninsula, rather than relying on a narrow selection of reports.

Funding

- DWER and licensed industrial facilities on the Burrup Peninsula consult further on the details of the monitoring program and subsequent funding arrangements including; contribution rates, oversight, and review.