

Rock Art Foundation Committee
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1 December 2017

Project Manager
Draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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To the Project Manager,

RE: DRAFT BURRUP ROCK ART STRATEGY

As referred to in the Draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy (p5), in July 2007, the Commonwealth of Australia included the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) on the National Heritage List. In the same month, it signed two Conservation Agreements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* over the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) in relation to the National Heritage Values of the National Heritage Place. One of these agreements was with Woodside Energy Ltd. The other was with Rio Tinto's Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd and Dampier Salt Pty Ltd.

The Conservation Agreement with Woodside Energy Ltd provided for governance arrangements to be set up to review and provide recommendations to Woodside with respect to the funding of proposed and continuing Conservation Agreement projects. The vehicle established for this purpose is the Rock Art Foundation Committee (RAFC), comprising one member nominated by each of the Parties and an independent Chairperson appointed by the parties. This submission is made on behalf of the RAFC.

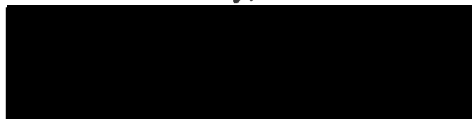
Firstly, we welcome the publication of the Western Australian Government's Draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy. The RAFC strongly supports the Draft Strategy's proposals for robust processes of monitoring and management of the rock art as an essential part of the protection of the National Heritage Values. We note that the monitoring and management has potential to recognise and build upon the body of pre-existing work and research already conducted by the Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Management Committee, Burrup Rock Art Technical Working Group (BRATWG), CSIRO and others. We also welcome the proposal for a Burrup Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group (*Section 6. Governance*) as a way of facilitating further engagement between government, industry, and community, particularly Ngarda-Ngarli, representatives.

As part of Conservation Agreement implementation, the RAFC has liaised with other stakeholders, specifically through the annual strategic planning meeting held in the Pilbara. In particular, the RAFC has worked closely with both the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and, increasingly in recent years, both with relevant Western Australian government departments and with Rio Tinto. One outcome of this collaboration was the signing in July this year by the Commonwealth, Woodside, and Rio Tinto of the Deep Gorge Joint Statement (DGJS), a copy of which is attached. The DGJS reaffirms the commitments made under each of the bilateral Conservation Agreements in terms of ongoing tripartite commitments.

Following the signing of the DGJS, a collaborative project was held on Murujuga on 3-5 October 2017. The Indigenous Ranger Rock Art Management Workshop was co-funded by Woodside and Rio Tinto, hosted by MAC and co-facilitated by Murujuga Rangers and Notre Dame University. The RAFC sees this workshop as part of continuing support for the Murujuga Rangers, who play a vital role in the ongoing protection of the rock art and the National Heritage Values. It is also just one example of the way in which industry, together with the Commonwealth, has worked and continues to work constructively with Ngarda-Ngarli on the Burrup and Dampier Archipelago.

The RAFC looks forward to the completion and implementation of the Draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy as further reinforcement of a collaborative approach by all stakeholders to the development of a long-term framework for Murujuga.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mary Edmunds
Independent Chairperson
Rock Art Foundation Committee

Attached: Deep Gorge Joint Statement

Rio Tinto, Woodside and Australian Government ongoing commitment to the Conservation Agreements

Rio Tinto, Woodside and the Australian Government remain committed to supporting the ongoing protection, conservation and management of the National Heritage Values of Murujuga and the wider Dampier Archipelago.

We will continue to build on our strong relationships with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, the Ngarda-Ngarli people and others who have interest within Murujuga.

We will continue to deliver positive and enduring outcomes for Murujuga by maintaining the funding committed under the existing Conservation Agreements to support local identified projects.

We are also intending to explore opportunities beyond the existing arrangements to continue the positive outcomes already achieved under the Conservation Agreements.

Rio Tinto
25 July 2017

Woodside
25 July 2017

Australian Government
25 July 2017



Pluto LNG

Operated by Woodside in Joint Venture
with Tokyo Gas and Kansai Electric



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

