

Please direct all responses/queries to:
Michael Opie

Our reference: 1400740499

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Attn: Project Manager
Draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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Dear Sir/Madam

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS ON DRAFT BURRUP ROCK ART STRATEGY

Thank you for the invitation to provide further comment on the Western Australian Government's draft Burrup Rock Art Strategy following the Australian Senate's Environment and Communications Reference Committee's report on Protection of Aboriginal Rock Art of the Burrup Peninsula. The report raises some important issues and Woodside welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on those issues as a major industrial stakeholder with ongoing heritage management obligations.

Woodside is proud of its record of working with traditional custodians, government agencies and industry groups to protect the cultural heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula. It is a record we are seeking to protect and enhance as we pursue our vision for the Burrup Hub, including a fresh wave of investment in natural gas for domestic and export markets. This involves bringing the Scarborough and Browse resources to the Woodside-operated Pluto and North West Shelf facilities on the Burrup Peninsula.

Woodside notes several senators' interest in pursuing World Heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula. While Woodside does not have an intrinsic role to play in decisions around World Heritage listing, we firmly believe that our operations and developments can continue to co-exist in close proximity to places of significant cultural heritage values. Further, we strongly support senators' recommendations that any consideration of World Heritage listing be undertaken in close consultation with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and that MAC be closely involved in any preparations for nomination of the Burrup Peninsula.

Woodside also supports close consideration of some senators' recommendations that the Murujuga Rangers be afforded greater powers to undertake enforcement activities to protect the Burrup Peninsula's cultural heritage values. Woodside, under a commitment within our Conservation Agreement, has supported the Murujuga Ranger team since 2012 and considers it a positive example of industry, government and heritage conservation organisations working together.

Several senators recommended continued monitoring and analysis of the Burrup rock art and the environmental factors that may affect it. As noted in our previous submission, Woodside supports further scientific monitoring and encourages early action to establish a monitoring program and build stakeholder confidence. The Burrup Rock Art Strategy can support this by ensuring the proposed Stakeholder Reference Group includes representatives with the technical expertise necessary to inform a program of scientific monitoring. Monitoring to date has not concluded that industrial emissions are damaging Burrup rock art. In this context, Woodside accepts its existing obligations to limit emissions but does not agree with some senators' recommendations that emissions must be further reduced and industrial development curtailed.

Woodside also supports further research to understand the possible impact of shipping emissions on Burrup rock art. Some senators expressed concern that sulphur oxide emissions from ships may be causing damage and, should that be scientifically established, Woodside would support the uptake of

low emission fuel by vessels utilising the Port of Dampier. Woodside is already actively promoting LNG as a transport fuel, including in the maritime sector where new international obligations to reduce sulphur oxide emissions make it an attractive alternative to heavy fuel oil or diesel. We are transitioning our own platform support vessels to LNG and developing our capabilities to supply LNG fuel from our Pluto Plant to customers in the Pilbara.

Woodside will continue to work with the Western Australian Government as it develops its Burrup Rock Art Strategy and looks forward to future opportunities to engage with your department on this issue.

Yours faithfully 



Niall Myles
Senior Vice President
Australia Operating Unit