

Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group

Summary of meeting held 18 August 2022

Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation Office, Murujuga Country (Dampier, WA)

This was the first meeting of the second term of the Stakeholder Reference Group. Members and observers joined the new Chair, Professor Stephen van Leeuwen, Murujuga Rangers and the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring team to receive an update on the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program and toured the observation panels and air quality monitoring stations.

The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to see first-hand the important work being undertaken by the team and understand the level of scientific rigour and sampling effort behind the monitoring program.

The monitoring program is building the collective technical capability and skills of the entire Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation Ranger team in data collection and sharing, sustainable environmental and cultural land monitoring and management activities. The State Government's partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation reflects a shared commitment to a constructive long-term relationship to support the preservation of Murujuga rock art.

Following the visit, the meeting was opened with a video welcome from the Minister for Environment; Climate Action, Hon Reece Whitby MLA. The Minister acknowledged the important work completed by the Stakeholder Reference Group in its first term, including by the outgoing Chair Dr Ron Edwards, and outlined his expectations of the group's role in its second term.

The Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation provided an update on planning for Ranger training, skills development and capacity building opportunities under the monitoring program and partnership with the State Government. Curtin University is also providing in-kind training opportunities. This element of the program will enable the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation to transition into the role of running the long-term monitoring program.

Calibre Group and Curtin University provided a briefing to the Stakeholder Reference Group on progress of field monitoring and laboratory studies in 2022. Two field campaigns have been successfully completed in April and June 2022, with a third campaign planned for October 2022. The 18 new passive air quality monitoring stations will be installed by the end of 2022. Preliminary results indicate that complex spatial pattern and rock type effects have an influence on measurements. Stakeholders were also briefed on the datasets that will inform the interim Environmental Quality Criteria in mid-2023.

The Stakeholder Reference Group also received updates on the Murujuga Cultural Landscape World Heritage Nomination and communications activities under the Murujuga Rock Art Strategy.