

Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group

Summary of meeting held 12 December 2022 (online)

The Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group members and observers met online for the final meeting of 2022.

The Chair, Professor Stephen van Leeuwen, acknowledged how much progress the Murujuga team achieved this year and noted there was a lot of interest in the Murujuga nomination at the recent Australian World Heritage Forum in Canberra.

Calibre Group and Curtin University provided an update on the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program. Progress highlights since the September meeting included:

- The third field studies campaign was successfully completed in November 2022, with the next (wet season) campaign scheduled for early 2023.
- Installation of 17 passive air quality monitoring station cages, with the final station and equipment being installed early in 2023.
- Monthly collection of passive air quality sampling commenced in November and will continue for the duration of the program.
- Data streaming from the first passive air quality monitoring station has commenced.
- Capacity building and training of Murujuga Rangers in 2022 included skid steer training, oversight and rollout of the Air Quality Monitoring stations and colour monitoring, concluding with an assessment of the Rangers' ability to independently undertake colour monitoring in accordance with the approved methodology.
- Progression of laboratory analysis work, including rock patina sampling for organics (64 samples rocks), microbiome DNA/RNA extraction from field samples (approximately 250 samples) and thin section mineralogy analysis.



Installation of a passive Air Quality Monitoring Cage in Murujuga National Park



Helicopter installation of passive Air Quality Monitoring cages on island sites

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation provided an update on communications and media activities.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) provided an update on the World Heritage nomination and related activities. Mr Peter Jeffries acknowledged the work of the DBCA and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation team in preparing the nomination dossier, and the ongoing support of the State and Federal government. The Ngarda Ngarli have had a long-term aspiration to achieve World Heritage status and will continue to lead the nomination.

The Stakeholder Reference Group noted the following major milestones and activities for 2023:

- Results and analysis from the first full year of monitoring studies
- Development of interim Environmental Quality Criteria
- Stakeholder Workshop
- Development of Monitoring Program Design
- Independent Peer Reviews of key deliverables

The Stakeholder Reference Group also noted that University of Western Australia is planning a research symposium on the 14th February 2023 as a scientific collaboration between the monitoring program and the rock art dating project teams.