

Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group

Summary of meeting held 12 March 2024

Online (MS Teams)

The Chair, Professor Stephen van Leeuwen, welcomed members and observers to the meeting and acknowledged the Whadjuk people from the Noongar Nation on whose land many attending the online meeting are on and paid respect to the custodians of Murujuga and First Nations people across Australia.

The Chair welcomed two new members and one new observer to the group and acknowledged the contributions of past members.

Members noted upcoming activities for 2024, including a stakeholder workshop to be held on Country and the 5-year review of the Murujuga Rock Art Strategy.

Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) briefed the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) on the Statement of Intent that was recently signed by representatives from MAC, Federal, State and industry operators active on Murujuga. The signing of the Statement of Intent means that all parties will now move on to the second part of a three-part process, which is to consensually agree on a set of principles, known as a Heads of Agreement. Once drafted and endorsed, the Heads of Agreement will inform the third and final part of the process, being individual consensual agreements with each party. Those consensual, individual and final agreements will place MAC on an equal footing in future decision-making processes about land use on Murujuga Country.

Members noted that the Murujuga Cultural Landscape World Heritage nomination has been sent to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for evaluation. This implies the nomination will be evaluated during 2024 and 2025.

The Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program team provided an update on works that have occurred on the monitoring program in Q1 2024. Year 2 monitoring studies will be completed in March 2024, with data analysis and interpretation to be completed prior to providing the report for independent peer review. Year 3 studies will commence in April, including some proposed changes to the study design which are currently subject to validation via independent peer review.

The Curtin Institute for Data Science provided a demonstration of the real-time data dashboard that is under development. The dashboard includes real-time weather and air quality data collected across the 22 stations operating on Murujuga.

Following review, calibration and user testing, the dashboard will be available to the public. Other data collected as part of the monitoring program is available on request from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Following publication of the updated Terms of Reference, members discussed and agreed that meeting summaries are the appropriate channel for communication of SRG activities.

The Chair thanked members and observers for attending and acknowledged the work the monitoring program team have done to this point.