



STAND UP FOR THE BURRUP



The Burrup Peninsula in the Pilbara hosts the largest concentration of prehistoric rock art on earth.

After decades of neglect, it is finally getting the recognition it deserves as a pre-eminent heritage site. Find out what the WA Government has in store for this place, and what you can do to Stand up for the Burrup.

"We can't hope to understand our past if we are willing to destroy a place like this. The Burrup is part of the common heritage of the world."

Senator Rachel Siewert

THE BURRUP: GLOBAL HERITAGE AT RISK

The Burrup Peninsula in the north-west of Western Australia has been described as 'the largest outdoor art gallery on the planet.'

Over tens of thousands of years, the Aboriginal people of the Pilbara carved thousands of enigmatic 'petroglyphs' into the red rocks of the Burrup and islands of the Dampier Archipelago. It is estimated there may be anything up to a million of these images carved into the iron-hard rocks of the Burrup and surrounding islands of the Dampier Archipelago.

The petroglyph galleries, standing stones, camp sites, middens and artifact scatters combine to make this area one of the world's most important monuments to prehistoric culture.

The original custodians of the area were the Yaburara people, inheritors of successive waves of artistic tradition stretching back at least 30,000 years.

The arrival of Europeans in the 1860s led to waves of dispossession and smallpox which destroyed the Yaburara people. In the 1960s the iron-ore port of Dampier was founded, followed by the establishment of the Woodside on-shore gas plant in the 1980s. All told, at least 10,000 petroglyphs have been destroyed and 1800 relocated, and the southern third of the Burrup has been disfigured by roads, powerlines, infrastructure corridors and other installations.

Another wave of industrial development is now being planned.



ICE AGE HERITAGE

- Up to a million rock carvings;
- Several distinct phases or styles of reflecting different climates and cultures;
- Earliest work as old as 30,000 years, well before the last ice age;
- Cultural heritage five times older than the Pyramids.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Woodside is now seeking permission from the WA State Government to destroy or relocate more Burrup rock art for the massive Pluto on-shore gas plant. This is only the beginning unfortunately.

The Carpenter Government is also insisting that other industries must be located on the Burrup, guaranteeing further damage well into the future.

The physical disturbance is being compounded by highly acidic air pollution which may be eating away at the surface of the rock itself.

Given the apparent hostility of the State Government to the heritage and ecological values of the rock art province, a number of groups have nominated the area for addition to the new National Heritage List.

If Commonwealth Environment Minister Ian Campbell agrees to add the entire Burrup to Australia's premier list of heritage places, it may at last be possible to provide a measure of protection for the rock art.

It is our responsibility to ensure that future industry is located elsewhere.



STONE AGE POLICIES

- Burrup land use plans never subject to environmental assessment;
- WA Aboriginal Heritage Act unable to prevent destruction of Heritage
- No end in sight: State still promoting the Burrup for industrial development.

"It is time we showed some respect and stood up for the Burrup."

WHAT THE GREENS ARE DOING

The Greens have been speaking out for the Burrup since Robin Chapple MLC took up the cause in State Parliament in 2001.

Senator Rachel Siewert has taken the issue into Federal Parliament, co-hosting a forum with Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston and campaigning in support of the Burrup being added to the National Heritage list.

In July 2006, Senator Siewert and Senator Bob Brown travelled to the

Burrup to see first hand the collision of values that is occurring in the area.

The Australian Greens are committed to the preservation of the Burrup for all time. While there are many sites in the Pilbara suitable for heavy industry, there's only one Dampier Archipelago.

We need a single management plan for the Burrup so that the whole area can be managed jointly with the local Aboriginal people.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The most urgent priority is to prevent further damage to the rock art at the site of the Woodside Pluto project.

To this end, please consider one or more of the following actions - every little bit helps.

Letters to the editor

You don't need to be an expert, just keep them short and simple.

- **The West Australian**
Go to www.thewest.com.au and scroll to the bottom - 'Contact Us'
- **The Australian**
letters@theaustralian.com.au or wa@theaustralian.com.au
- Your local **community newspaper**
- **Talkback radio** in your area

Contact us if you would like to help distribute Burrup posters or postcards calling for National Heritage listing.

Write to Senator Ian Campbell
Minister for the Environment & Heritage
GPO Box B58 Perth WA 6838
Telephone (08) 9325 4227
senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au

Senator Campbell should add the entire Dampier Rock Art precinct to the National Heritage List and properly protect the area.

Write to Premier Alan Carpenter
197 St George's Tce Perth WA 6000
Telephone: (08) 9222 9888
wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

The WA Government should ensure there is no further heavy industry allowed on the Burrup Peninsula.

"Exactly same if you were to go dig up a grave of your family, you know? And that's how we feel about it."

Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo elder, Wilfred Hicks
April 2004

The **Aboriginal Traditional Owners** of the area neighbouring the Burrup are legally constrained from speaking out in defence of their heritage by the terms of the "Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement Implementation Deed".

The **World Monuments Fund** has listed the Burrup on the register of the world's 100 Most Endangered Sites - the first site in Australia to ever be listed.

<http://www.wmf.org/watch.html>

The **National Trust** listed the Burrup on its 'Endangered Places' list in 2002, and has worked hard for the protection of the Burrup ever since.

<http://www.burrup.org.au/>

The **International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO)** has spent many years at the forefront of efforts to preserve the Burrup.

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/dampier/web>

RESCUE THE SENATE

The Greens have a vision for Australia that combines economic prosperity, social equality and environmental protection.

In the 2007 election we need your help to 'Rescue the Senate' and hold the Government accountable. Please contact us to find out how you can help.



Senators Bob Brown & Rachel Siewert



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