

# NEWS YO MAMA TOLD YOU

## Precious artefact or meaningless scribble?

Ancient rock art discovered, police to probe vandalism complaints

The discovery of dozens of pieces of ancient Aboriginal art on a cave wall in the northwest of the state has prompted a bitter feud between local Aboriginal people, activists, and energy company Advanced Resources Solutions and Exploration – Heavy Operations and Line Enterprises (ARSEHOLE), which has a mining claim over the area. The West Australian Government yesterday weighed in on the dispute. George Watson of the State Solicitor's Office announced the Government position, which calls for those responsible for the paintings to be charged with vandalism.

"Obviously, there are a few issues raised in all this," Mr Watson said. "For one, we need to determine whether or not the statute of limitations would exclude offences committed more than 20,000 ago from being prosecuted under WA law. My feeling is that, because we're most likely dealing with Aboriginal offenders, we'll find a way to charge them. In addition to this, my office will not rule out desecrating the graves of past Aboriginal leaders in order to indict them, or punishing their descendants for their supposed crimes. The WA Government has developed quite comprehensive mechanisms for fucking over the locals in situations like this."



**History or hassle? An example of the "art/vandalism".**

The Government's announcement was, needless to say, not quite what indigenous leaders had been hoping for. "For them to say this is vandalism is outrageous," said Jim Tillman of the Aboriginal Legal Service, which has been a strong proponent of preserving the site. "Sure, a few of the paintings are just individual's 'tags', and a couple are just quite crude drawings of unsavoury sexual practices. But at least some of them are an important social history of the people up here." He later added that there were also some "poo-related"

jokes in the mix as well.

"What is it if not vandalism?" asked mining and energy lawyer Daniel Markham. "They have defaced our client's property. And despite whatever those Murdoch legal aid idiots over at the ALS might tell you, we were the original owners of the land. I don't see anyone else holding a title over the area. It's just a bunch of dots and lines anyway. Whities art is much better. Maybe if it were actually a picture of something, this would be different."