

Protest at Pluto ruffles feathers

THE Burrup Peninsula's traditional owners have protested against Woodside's Pluto development at the weekend raising banners reading "Stop The Cultural Vandalism".

The Ngarluma people took part in the Stand Up for the Burrup action on Saturday afternoon to highlight the damage already done to rock art on the Burrup.

The protest started at 12.30pm and lasted for about three hours.

The area where the sites are located contains a high concentration of indigenous rock art which can be dated to about 30,000 years ago.

The protest was originally set to march on the Pluto B lease site but was unable to do so as Woodside had the gates closed.

Rock art campaigner Sue Smalldon said that the traditional owners of the Burrup were overridden by the WA and Federal Governments and the demonstration was merely an example of the traditional owners exercising their native title rights.

"The traditional owners never agreed to the displacement of the rock art - the Ministers (Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull and WA Environment Minister David Templeman) agreed to the development," she said.

This protest coincided with another at the Mr Turnbull's electorate office in Wentworth.

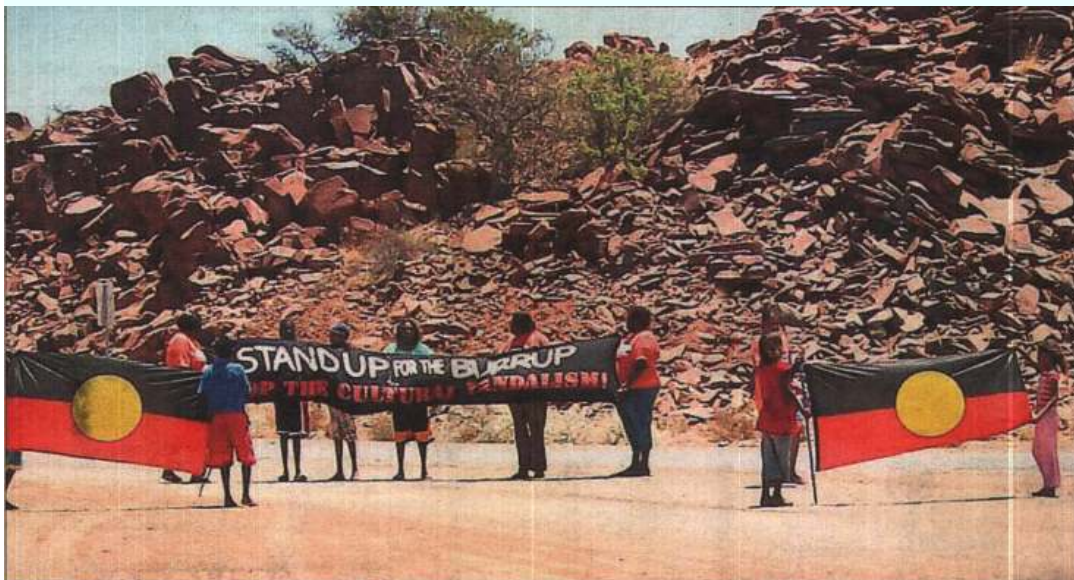
Traditional owner Robyne Churnside said that Woodside, the WA and Federal Governments did not honour

previous agreements or consider the wishes of the indigenous owners of the Burrup to not disturb the rock art.

"My people say that once a piece of rock art left by our ancestors is removed, our song line, our sacred site, is destroyed forever," she said.

"Our people said that we were happy for Woodside to build the gas plan on our country, as long as they didn't damage our rock art, our sacred sites our library for future generations and we asked them to put the plant nearby, somewhere where our cultural heritage, our stories would be safe."

Ms Churnside claims that the action was an effort to defend and protect traditional land from the greed and destruction of WA Governments and Woodside.



The Ngarluma people protest outside Pluto Site B on the Burrup on Saturday.