



**THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
WA SYNOD OFFICE**

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Protecting Burrup Peninsular critical for the cultural, spiritual and artistic heritage of all Western Australians says Uniting Church Moderator

The Moderator of the Uniting Church, Mr Robert Watson, has today written to the Premier of Western Australia to express concern over the threat posed to ancient rock carvings by mining infrastructure developments on the Burrup Peninsular.

Mr Watson urged the Premier to do everything he can to ensure no more of these priceless artefacts are destroyed.

“The Uniting Church has an ongoing commitment to reconciliation, and to working with our indigenous church partners, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress,” said Mr Watson.

“The Carpenter Government to its credit consistently acknowledges prior ownership of the land by Aboriginal peoples. I believe protection of the ancient rock carvings offers an opportunity for the government to consolidate their efforts toward reconciliation and to demonstrate its commitment to acknowledging the spiritual heritage of the peoples of this land.

“The rock carvings, paintings and standing stones of the Burrup are not only part of our cultural heritage, they are also part of the spiritual heritage of our nation.”

Woodside Petroleum have withdrawn their opposition to heritage listing of this site, but remain committed to development in the area. However, latest research shows other economically viable sites where Woodside could develop their operations which would be more economically sustainable.

“The community of Western Australia now has an opportunity to show that we value the cultural, spiritual and artistic heritage of our Indigenous brothers and sisters above the considerations of short-term economics,” Mr Watson said.

The Moderator will speak at a public rally in support of protecting the Burrup, to be held outside Wesley Uniting Church, Perth on Wednesday 20 December, 12.00noon.

ENDS

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Photo opportunities available