



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN AND MINING NETWORK

“Mujer y Minería”

Newsletter

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(Should any of our members find information on campaigns that is inaccurate we apologize for the same and request you to write to us with the corrections)

RIMM CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Australia

Woodside Energy's Pluto LNG Gas Plants threat to indigenous rock art

Off the North West coast of Western Australia in the Burrup Peninsula rests a silent heritage of



immeasurable worth: a group of islands filled with close to a million indigenous rock carvings six times older than the Pyramids and eight times older than Stonehenge. This heritage site has been chosen by Woodside Energy to set up its \$20 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant called Pluto project threatening to destroy this world renowned and priceless aboriginal art.

RIMM members had extended their support to the local campaign against setting up of the gas plant and demanded that the government of Australia list the same as a national heritage site and ask industries to find alternate sites for their plants. Pressure from the campaigners worked with the government and Woodside in November 2006 reversing their position against the heritage listing. However, Woodside have stated that they only support the listing on the condition that the proposed area for their Pluto development project is excised. The then Minister for Environment Senator Ian Campbell decided not to emergency list the site in January 2007 and called for public comment and consultation on the heritage process. Woodside is awaiting approval of a Public Environmental Review from Federal Environment and Heritage bodies. The Environmental Protection Authority is currently assessing the complete development plan for the Pluto project. The joint Public Environment Report-Public Environmental Review is open for public comment until

February 19, 2007. The EPA's review stage is another opportunity to get your message across to the interested parties - Woodside will have to respond to the submissions made by the public following the close of submissions.

Bolivia

Nationalization of mines

In October 2006, 16 people died and over 60 were injured when clashes broke out between rival bands of miners. Hundreds of miners belonging to independent cooperatives and state-employed miners fought each other with gunfire and dynamite over access to the state-owned Huanuni mine, south of La Paz, which holds Bolivia's richest tin deposits. The violence began when the miners from cooperatives stormed the Huanuni mine, demanding more access to its tin deposits. State-employed miners counter attacked to regain control and the groups exchanged gunshots and threw dynamite. Miners, some only in their teens, carried sticks of dynamite in backpacks and tucked in their belts. The cooperatives had strongly backed President Eva Morales' election last year, and the administration has already granted them access to a portion of the Huanuni deposits.

Both groups see Huanuni's rich vein of tin as a source of steady employment in South America's poorest country. The government has proposed expanding the operations of national mining company Comibol at Huanuni and other mines, and offering the independent miners salaried state jobs. However, the independents have rejected the offer, demanding that their cooperatives be granted greater access to Bolivia's mineral deposits.

Though nationalized in 1952, many of Bolivia's mines have since been privatized. While now under state control, the Huanuni