



The World Archaeological Congress

Please reply to:

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AUSTRALIA

Appeals Convener, Damion McAlinden
Minister for the Environment; Science
29th Floor, Allendale Square
77 St. George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
Australia

13 December 2005

Dear Mr McAlinden

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) expresses its concern about the need to preserve the significant rock art and archaeological heritage on the Burrup Peninsula. WAC is particularly concerned that Woodside Energy Ltd has identified the Burrup Peninsula as a location for developing its land bases gas facility in the Pluto Project. An important matter that has come to the attention of WAC is the inadequate level of assessment for which Woodside has applied which is clearly inappropriate for a project of such magnitude and likely potential impact.

Members of WAC are committed to the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage, and unconditionally condemn avoidable damage to archaeological sites. WAC promotes the need for developers and governments to examine thoroughly all options in order to protect as much as possible of the heritage of all peoples of the world in the process of establishing project sites. In the case of the Burrup Peninsula, WAC wishes to see that every effort is made to protect the petroglyphs that are renowned as one of the largest and most important rock art collections in the world. The collection provides an unrecoverable body of evidence for cultural, religious and artistic life that should be preserved and made

available to future generations.

The rock art collection on the Burrup Peninsula has attained international and national recognition. Two reports of the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO) in 2002 confirmed the value of the rich cultural heritage of the range of petroglyphs and other rock art on the site. The World Monument Fund has included the Burrup Peninsula in the historic artistic, and archaeological heritage items on the watch list of the 100 world's most endangered sites for 2004 and 2005. Currently the Peninsula is being assessed for compliance under National Heritage listings by the Australian Government; the consultation period for which will end in September 2006.

WAC considers it a critical matter for the Government and Woodside Energy Ltd to undertake a major management plan that would involve consulting archaeologists and other experts in order to coordinate the preservation of the Burrup Peninsula site in a comprehensive manner.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Smith', written in a cursive style.

Associate Professor Claire Smith

President, World Archaeological Congress

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