



12 November 2007

Mr Peter Garrett
Shadow Minister for Climate Change,
Environment, Heritage and the Arts.
P.O. Box 249
Maroubra,
NSW 2035

(Via Email)

Dear Sir

We write to formally voice our concern to you over the lack of leadership and commitment shown by both major political parties to the responsible management of Australia's indigenous culture and heritage, as evidenced within the current Federal election campaign. We are compelled to seek a clear commitment from you, before 24 November, as to the policy and direction the ALP intends to take with respect to improving protection for Aboriginal heritage, especially in Western Australia.

We refer specifically to the Burrup Peninsula and the WA Government's explicit policy of further industrial expansion in this world heritage cultural area.

As you are aware, a small number of ALP politicians have supported the Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA's) stand on the Burrup issue. Principally of course Dr Carmen Lawrence, and also her successor Melissa Parkes, Wentworth candidate George Newhouse, and indeed yourself in times past. While ACF President, you lobbied the then WA Premier Geoff Gallup over the Burrup, while we also have on file messages of support sent by both you and Anthony Albanese to FARA's inaugural meeting in October last year.

We are disappointed by your failure to honour the public commitment you made at Kim Wilkie's election meeting in the seat of Swan on 22 August, where you gave an undertaking to meet with FARA prior to the election, to discuss ongoing threats to the Burrup. Despite numerous emails and phone calls to both your and Kim Wilkie to arrange a date for this meeting, neither of you have responded to any of these messages.

Of further concern is the Federal ALP's apparent unwillingness to distance itself from the disastrous cultural heritage policies of its ALP associates in the WA State Government, as well as the National ALP Executive's decision to parachute former Woodside executive and climate change sceptic Gary Gray into the safe Labor seat of Brand.

Given plans by Woodside and other companies, and the intention of the WA Government to continue industrial expansion on the Burrup, FARA is determined to make the Burrup a Federal election issue. We are committed to bring to public attention the shortcomings of both the ALP and Liberal parties on this issue during the last ten days of the election campaign, through a concerted programme of media, direct action and other events.

www.standupfortheburrup.com

C/o Conservation Council of W.A Inc. Lotteries House 2 Delhi St. West Perth
6005 Western Australia email: fara.perth@gmail.com ABN: 35 018 895 052

As mentioned, we seek from you a clear commitment with regard to ALP policy and direction on indigenous culture and heritage management, and suggest that this can be evidenced through you reinforcing your commitment to:

- a) Pursue World Heritage listing for the Burrup Peninsula; and
- b) Stop any further industrial expansion on the Burrup.

Despite these somewhat acid election campaign observations, we do of course see you as a natural interlocutor within the Labor Caucus. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters in greater detail with you in order to expedite the ALP's position on these issues before 24 November.

Yours sincerely



Chris Malcolm
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Friends of Australian Rock Art Inc
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