



13 November 2007

Mr Malcolm Turnbull  
Minister for Environment and Water Resources.  
Level 1, 5A Bronte Rd,  
Bondi Junction,  
NSW 2022

(via Email)

Dear Sir,

We write to formally voice our deep concern over the apparent lack of leadership and commitment to the responsible management of Australia's indigenous culture and heritage, evidenced during the current Federal election campaign. We therefore feel compelled to seek a clear commitment from you, before 24 November, as to the policy and direction the Coalition intends to take with respect to protecting Aboriginal culture and heritage, and specifically the cultural and heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula.

We acknowledge and appreciate the commitment made by you on 3 July 2007 in listing the Dampier Archipelago (including a portion of the Burrup Peninsula) in the National Heritage list. In announcing this heritage listing, you made reference to the unique and significant heritage of the area. However, in approving the listing you excluded current undeveloped and undisturbed areas targeted for future industry development.

On 12 October you gave the go ahead for Woodside to commence clearing rock art for the Pluto Site B construction preparations. At the same time your Assistant Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr John Cobb, rejected an application by a group of Aboriginal custodians, the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo, to protect their cultural heritage.

As Minister for the Environment and Water Resources you have presided over the various approvals process for the Woodside Pluto project, and Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) have received Senior Counsel advice that some of these approvals may not have been correctly delivered.

It is also of great concern to FARA that the Coalition appears to be unwilling to distance itself from the disastrous cultural heritage management practices of the WA State Government.

Given the plans by Woodside and other companies, and the urging from the WA Government to continue expanding the industrial development on the Burrup, FARA is determined to make the Burrup a Federal election issue. We are committed to bringing the shortcomings, and commitments, of both major parties to full public attention during the last days of this election campaign, through a concerted programme of media, direct action and other events, especially in your own highly marginal electorate of Wentworth where our support base is strong and well organised.

[www.standupfortheburrup.com](http://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](mailto:fara.perth@gmail.com) ABN: 35 018 895 052



As previously mentioned, we seek from you a clear commitment with regard to Coalition policy and direction on indigenous culture and heritage management, and suggest that this can be evidenced through you reinforcing, on behalf of the Howard government, your commitment to;

- Pursue World Heritage listing for the Burrup, and
- Halt all 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 Coalition Caucus. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further in order to expedite your commitment to establishing the Coalition's position before 24 November.

Yours sincerely



Chris Malcolm  
Co-convenor, Friends of Australian Rock Art Inc  
0413017469



[www.standupfortheburrup.com](http://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](mailto:fara.perth@gmail.com) ABN: 35 018 895 052