



# Media Alert

June 8, 2008  
Release: Immediate  
Attention: Chiefs of Staff, news editors, business reporters

## Stand Up for the Burrup shoulder to shoulder with the opposition!

On Saturday 07/06/08 Friends of Australian Rock Art conducted its 145th Stand Up vigil at the exit of "A Celebration Of Life" in Perth, an event featuring Hindu Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza (Bhaiji) sponsored by Pankaj Oswal - Chairman of Burrup Fertilisers Pty Ltd.

The reason for this Stand Up was that Pankaj Oswal and Yara (Norway) have signed a joint venture plan to build a 350,000 ton p.a. technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) explosives plant in the middle of the National Heritage listed Burrup Peninsula.

This plant will be next to Pankaj Oswal's current Burrup Holdings Fertiliser plant, located on the largest of the islands of the Dampier Archipelago.



The location of the Stand Up was chosen to highlight the cultural duplicity of building a petrochemical plant within 1 km of one of the major rock art galleries, when in Vishnupur the Oswal family's spiritual leaders are trying to protect the Pancha Ratna Temple and Jor Bangla, built about 400 years ago, from airborne pollution coming from 300 km away.

Mr Oswal and his wife would be horrified if industry started chemically destroying the Hindu Gardens of Vrindaban, the Taj Mahal or the temple city of Vishnupur - and yet here he is proposing to build an explosives factory, with all its attendant pollution and possible dangers (as on Varanus Island just recently), less than a kilometre from some of the world's oldest petroglyphs.

[www.standupfortheburrup.com](http://www.standupfortheburrup.com)

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We found it somewhat amusing, if not culturally disturbing, that Pankaj Oswal employed the services of some students to do a counter demonstration in support of the economy and job creation.

When interviewed, they indicated no knowledge of the heritage issues or the fact that we didn't oppose his industry, just its location.

FARA, supported by Carmen Lawrence, Colin Barnett and Malcolm Fraser, has been acknowledged as leading the charge to protect the archipelago, the world's greatest petroglyph (rock art) and prehistoric site.

The values of the Dampier archipelago are twofold : it contains what is considered to be the largest remaining group of prehistoric petroglyphs anywhere in the world, including the earliest examples of human face depiction; and as a pre-eminent world site, it is one of the only places that contains a chronology of human endeavour from 30,000 years ago to the present time, mapping the changes of environment, species extinction and cultural swings up to and through the last Ice age to the current day.

The Dampier archipelago is the only site in Australia on the World Monuments Fund's most endangered heritage list, where it has remained for the last seven years.

**For further information:**

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- Stand Up for the Burrup photos: [www.standupfortheburrup.com](http://www.standupfortheburrup.com)

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