



Media Alert

Embargoed for release until 12pm, Saturday 20/12/2008

200th global rally for Burrup World Heritage Listing

Expert archaeologists, Aboriginal traditional owners from the Ngarluma, Wong-goo-tt-oo and Yinjibarndi peoples, representatives of the Uniting and Catholic Churches, former federal Liberal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ian Viner QC, Greens Senator Scott Ludlam and lawyers involved in the campaign have united to call for World Heritage listing of WA's Burrup Peninsula. The call was made at a rally in Perth to mark the 200th global "Stand Up of the Burrup" vigil.

Since the 20th of December 2006, Friends of Australian Rock Art has organised 200 vigils for the Burrup rock art in more than 35 countries and in every continent except Antarctica.

FARA spokesperson Robin Chapple said that international pressure was mounting for Australia to include the Burrup on the UNESCO World Heritage List. He said "For more than 30 years, successive State and Federal governments have ignored the global significance of this site. Now, we are getting closer and closer to World Heritage listing. The Australian government should immediately place the Burrup on the tentative World Heritage List."

Traditional owner Wilfred Hicks, of the Wong-goo-tt-oo people, said that Woodside had caused major damage to the art. "This rock art is our Bible", said Mr Hicks "and every time a piece of it is removed, we lose part of our spiritual heritage."

Uniting Church WA Moderator Rev Ken Williams said "The protection of the ancient rock art offers an opportunity for the Australian government to further its efforts towards reconciliation and to demonstrate a commitment to acknowledging the spiritual heritage of this land."

Ian Viner QC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Fraser Liberal Government wrote: "The desecration of thousands of years of rock art on the Burrup by the Woodside development has seriously damaged Western Australia's international reputation. It must not be allowed to happen again. With the new Barnett government there is a unique opportunity to preserve the Burrup rock art for future generations by the state initiating urgent steps for World Heritage listing of the Burrup."

Fellow Australian Academy of the Humanities, Dr Sylvia Hallam said: "We Australians should treasure the evidence which the Dampier Archipelago provides that mankind possessed a sense of the sacred when our species first reached this continent tens of thousands of years ago. Have we now lost these values?"

How many more experts, politicians, international organisations and supporters will be ignored before Australia and its Governments realize that the Dampier Archipelago, Australia's greatest monument, does not look like a Pyramid but is just as important to humanity and must be World Heritage Listed?

Further actions in support of the Burrup are taking place today at the Great Pyramids of Giza, Nantes Cathedral in France, and in Paris, France.

Ends

www.standupfortheburrup.com

**C/o Conservation Council of W.A Inc. Lotteries House 2 Delhi St. West Perth
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FOR INTERVIEWS:

Friends of Australian Rock Art
Wong-goo-tt-oo people
Uniting Church in Australia

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BACKGROUND:

Since launching its campaign on 20 December 2006, 200 "Stand Up for the Burrup" actions have been held all around the world. It represents an average of 2 actions per week. These actions involve people standing in front of worldwide cultural monument wearing T-shirts or holding placards that spell out the slogan "Stand Up for the Burrup".

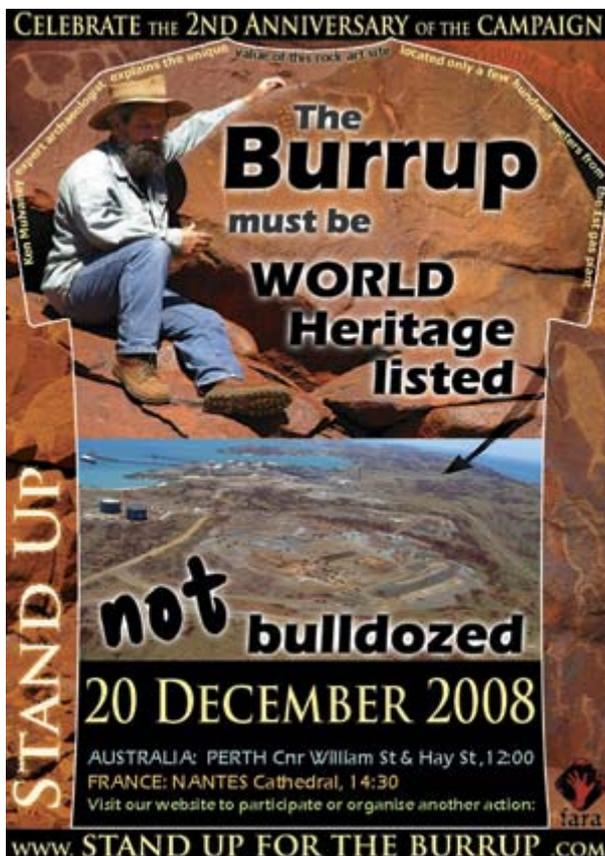
"Stand Ups" have been held at World heritage listed sites including Stonehenge, the Acropolis, the Great Wall of China, the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower, the Sydney Opera House, Angkor Wat and many more.

Photographs of the 200 events may be seen at www.standupfortheburrup.com.

Every time FARA completes 10 "Stand Ups", an e-card with photos of them is sent to more than 600 politicians, public servants, corporate executives, and media representatives.

FARA has more than 10 sets of T shirts constantly being couriered around the world to coordinators of Stand Up events.

FARA works closely with Burrup traditional owner groups, and is an entirely volunteer organisation.



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