



**fara**  
Friends of  
Australian  
Rock Art Inc.

# Media Alert

September 26, 2007  
For immediate release

Attention: All news and business journalists and editors, COS

## **WA GROUP TAKES BATTLE FOR BURRUP ROCK ART TO FEDERAL SEAT OF WENTWORTH**

Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) is today publishing the attached ad in the Wentworth Courier to highlight Malcolm Turnbull's responsibility for the fate of ancient Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula in WA's Pilbara region, the world's oldest and largest rock art gallery.

Minister Turnbull recently heritage listed most of the Burrup, but after intensive lobbying from the company Woodside, failed to protect a particularly sensitive area where Woodside and the WA Government plan to establish a Liquid Natural Gas plant. Although a number of alternative locations are available which would not impact on the area's unique cultural heritage, Woodside intends to commence removal/destruction of approximately 200 pieces of rock art on its Pluto B lease soon after Sunday 30 September. Despite widespread opposition from local Aboriginal custodians, the company removed/destroyed approximately 50 pieces of rock art on its Pluto A lease earlier this year.

On 4 September, the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people, a group of Aboriginal custodians of the Burrup, submitted an application to Federal Environment Minister Turnbull under sections 9 & 10 of the Commonwealth's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act requesting that he use his ministerial powers to:

- a) declare a thirty day moratorium on further removal of rock art from the Woodside Pluto B lease; and
- b) establish an inquiry into the Aboriginal heritage values of the Pluto B lease.

In today's Wentworth Courier ad, FARA is asking members of Malcolm Turnbull's electorate of Wentworth to support the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people's struggle to preserve their cultural heritage by contacting him directly and asking him to agree to their s 9 & 10 applications and halt the destruction.

**ENDS**

**For further information:**

- Wilfred Hicks, Wong-Ga-Tt-Oo elder and spokesman, 0417 923 705
- Stephen Bennetts, bennes06@tartarus.uwa.edu.au, 0404 674 261
- Robin Chapple, Director (WA) Minerals Policy Institute, f4949@inet.net.au, 0409 379 263
- Media coverage of the Burrup issue: [www.dampierrockart.net/Media/](http://www.dampierrockart.net/Media/)
- Stand Up for the Burrup website: [www.standupfortheburrup.com](http://www.standupfortheburrup.com)

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