

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO (INCLUDING MURUJUGA/THE BURRUP PENINSULA) TO BE NOMINATED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TENTATIVE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

As senior Aboriginal custodians of the Dampier Archipelago, which includes Murujuga/the Burrup Peninsula, we are proud of our living and enduring culture, and of our connection to the Dampier Archipelago.

We value for ourselves, for future generations and for humanity in general, the extraordinary record of more than 40,000 years of continuous human habitation of this place, represented in more than one million amazing images throughout the Dampier Archipelago. These petroglyphs constitute the largest, oldest and longest sequence of an outdoor rock art gallery in the world. They are of outstanding universal value to humankind as well as to us as the Aboriginal custodians of Murujuga.

It is important that the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Dampier Archipelago is given the recognition and international standing that is warranted. We are deeply concerned about current threats to Murujuga's exceptional rock art and believe it could be better protected if the Australian Government were to nominate the Murujuga rock art to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

We therefore request that the State and Federal Governments support the inclusion of the Dampier Archipelago on Australia's Tentative World Heritage List, to make it possible for a genuine period of consultation with us as Aboriginal custodians to take place, so that we can consider in detail what World Heritage Listing would mean for us, and how our community can best manage this incredibly significant area.

The Premier of Western Australia must immediately propose the Dampier Archipelago for inclusion on Australia's Tentative World Heritage List.

We also ask the Federal Environment Minister to include the Dampier Archipelago on Australia's updated Tentative World Heritage List, and to submit the revised tentative List in time for consideration at the World Heritage Committee meeting in July 2017.

We sign this as representatives of the Aboriginal custodians

*Kevin Cosmos* HERITAGE OFFICER

~~W. Hicks~~ WILFRED HICKS. (W.P.O. ELDER)

*Val Halban* REUNIA. - KEVIN COSMOS

*Michael Boona* MICHAEL BOONA

*Jim Caurns* JIM CAURNSIDE  
*Niolet Samson* Niolet Samson

*Stanley* (Injibarndi Elder.)