

MEDIA RELEASE

The West Pilbara based Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo Aboriginal group held its Annual General meeting at Point Samson Hall on 28 June 2008. The meeting was attended by a wide cross-section of members, the group's legal team, accountants and anthropologist.

The meeting resolved to continue the group's opposition to the desecration and destruction of their culture caused by removal of ancient rock engravings on the Burrup Peninsula and elsewhere in their traditional lands to make way for industrial development.

"This destruction of our culture has gone too far already", said group elder and spokesperson Wilfred Hicks after the meeting. "At first the Dampier Port Authority came and asked us to help them move five or six engraved boulders", he said. "We agreed, as that didn't seem much. Then the East-West Services Corridor was built and we agreed to help move another dozen or so engravings for the State Government. Then Woodside came to us and we agreed to allow them to move some engravings in their Pluto Area A. Then they came back with Pluto Area B and wanted to move over two hundred. That's when we drew the line in the sand. The whole issue had got out of hand."

"Because we didn't want to be seen hindering development", he said, "Government and developers have been taking advantage of us by making us move more and more of our culture. But our people are dying and falling ill because of this wanton destruction of our history, our ancestor's legacy and our culture" It simply has to stop, so we are saying **no more rock art movement**. Make no mistake about it, movement means destruction. The archaeologists say that they can "salvage" the engravings, but they are talking from a foreigner's point of view. You cannot salvage the spirits of our land", Mr Hicks said.

For more information call Wilfred Hicks on 0417923705.