



Media Alert

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World Archaeology Congress calls on Burrup destruction to stop

Friends of Australian Rock Art welcome the news that the delegates of the 74 Countries that make up the congress passed a strongly worded resolution condemning the continuing destruction of the Burrup rock carvings.

The resolution to the WAC executive was: "To demand of the Australian and Western Australian Government, that no more rock art and standing stones be damaged, moved or destroyed as a result of industrial and other development within the Dampier Archipelago"

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress, opened by the Irish President, was held in Dublin, Ireland from 29th June to 4th July 2008.

WAC the only archaeological organisation with elected global representation - holds an international convention every four years.

"Again another august body of the international community has condemned the Australian government over its inability to protect the some of the world's earliest petroglyphs."

"How many more (international organisations) will it take to make the Governments of Australia take action?" said Robin Chapple FARA's co-convener.

"As we speak more rock art is to be destroyed/relocated on the Burrup, is there no end to this wanton destruction?"

Already the World Monuments Fund and the National Trust of Australia have placed the Dampier Archipelago on their most endangered heritage lists.

The current WAC President is Associate Professor in Archaeology Claire Smith of Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, claire.smith@flinders.edu.au

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