



fara
Friends of
Australian
Rock Art Inc.

Media Alert

September 28, 2007
For immediate release

Attention: All news and business journalists and editors, COS

Rock art campaigners widen advertising campaign in Turnbull's seat

Aboriginal heritage activists have stepped up their advertising campaign in Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull's seat of Wentworth.

Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) will today publish half page advertisements in a further four local newspapers circulating in Turnbull's electorate. Spokesperson Robin Chapple said that the ads were placed as a result of the strong public response to an advertisement the group published on Wednesday in Sydney Eastern Suburbs paper the *Wentworth Courier*.

The four new ads will run today in the *Eastern Suburbs Spectator*, *Paddington Woollahra Times*, *Randwick Leader*, and *Coogee/Maroubra Messenger*.

The advertisement (attached) calls upon the Minister Turnbull to accept Burrup Aboriginal custodians' request for a Commonwealth inquiry into the heritage values of ancient Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula, in WA's North West.

The Burrup rock art is believed by experts to be the world's oldest and largest rock art landscape, with some engraving at least 30,000 years old. Woodside plans next week to remove about 150 of the carvings to make way for its proposed Pluto LNG plant.

"Nowhere else in Australia would this sort of cultural vandalism be tolerated" said Mr Chapple. "Woodside could easily build its plant down the coast close to Onslow, but it and the WA government continue with their economically unsound and environmentally damaging plans to further destroy the Burrup rock art."

Malcolm Turnbull is already under pressure from environmental groups opposing the Gunns Tasmanian pulp mill. Indigenous and environmental groups are now demanding that Turnbull accept a request from the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo group of Aboriginal custodians for a stay of work on the Burrup until a Commonwealth inquiry is completed. Turnbull's seat is considered marginal.

ENDS

For further information:

- Wilfred Hicks, Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo elder and spokesman, 0417 923 705
- Robin Chapple, Director (WA) Minerals Policy Institute, f4949@iinet.net.au, 0409 379 263
- Media coverage of the Burrup issue: www.dampierrockart.net/Media/
- Stand Up for the Burrup website: www.standupfortheburrup.com

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