Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group

Meeting on 9 July 2019

The Chair, Dr Ron Edwards, and Mr Peter Jeffries (CEO, Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation) welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Ms Louise Holding, Chief of Staff to the Minister for Environment and Mr Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation attended part of the meeting.

Industry updates

Members received updates on:

- The actions being taken by Rio Tinto, Woodside Energy and Yara Pilbara to reduce emission loads on the Burrup Peninsula. These include the design and construction of plants to incorporate contemporary best practice pollution control technology; optimisation of operational and maintenance practices to maximise energy efficiency; and the adoption of low sulphur diesel fuel.
- Woodside Energy’s proposal to develop an integrated, regional liquefied natural gas (LNG) centre on the Burrup Peninsula (‘Burrup Hub’) to process off-shore gas resources to supply domestic and export markets.
- Yara Pilbara’s 2017 and 2018 rock art monitoring which is undertaken by independent experts with the Murujuga Land & Sea Unit Rangers.

Key issues discussed by members included:

- the environmental approvals process for proposed projects and opportunities for input and feedback through State and Commonwealth public consultation;
- the availability of information to demonstrate reductions in industrial emissions are being achieved; and
- the development of limits on emissions that are based on protecting the rock art on Murujuga, rather than manufacturer specifications.

Update on proposals currently being assessed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

Members received an update from the Australian Government’s Department of the Environment and Energy on industrial development proposals currently being assessed. Members noted the need for robust scientific information to inform environmental approvals and final investment decisions by industry.

Member Updates

Members also received updates on the:

- procurement process for the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program;
- World Heritage listing nomination for Murujuga; and
- work being undertaken by the Western Australian Museum and the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation to showcase Murujuga in an exhibition planned for the opening of the new museum in late 2020 and which will complement the Murujuga Living Knowledge Centre.