

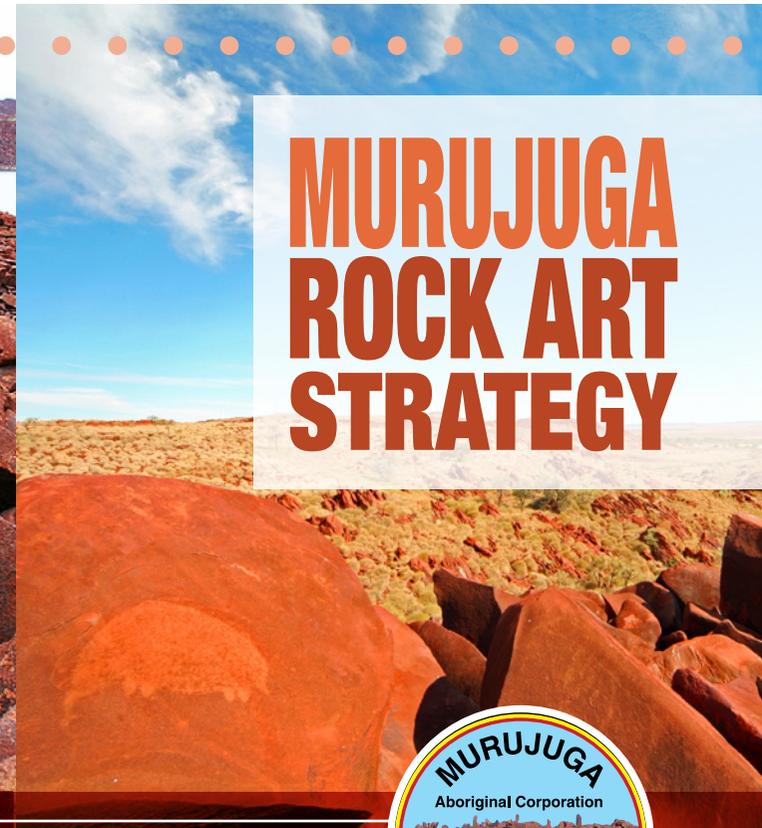
Murujuga (which means 'hip bone sticking out' in the Ngarluma-Yaburara language) is in the coastal Pilbara region of Western Australia. With over one million recorded petroglyphs (rock art), it is home to one of the largest, densest and most diverse collections of rock art in the world.

The rock art is of continuing cultural and spiritual significance to the Traditional Owners. It also has significant state, national and international heritage value.

The Government of Western Australia is committed to the ongoing protection of Murujuga's rock art and is working in partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, representing the Traditional Custodians of Murujuga, to protect and manage this significant and important area.



Photo: Fish engraving



MURUJUGA ROCK ART STRATEGY



Where to find more information

The Murujuga Rock Art Strategy is available on the department's website (www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environment-information-services/program-murujuga-rock-art).

Information on the monitoring and analysis of Murujuga's rock art will be published on the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's (MAC) website (www.murujuga.org.au) and the department's website.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation would like to thank the MAC for providing permission for the publication of their photographs.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation recognises the Traditional Owners and custodians of Murujuga; the past, present and future generations of Ngurra-ra Ngarli, and their ongoing connection to this sacred country.

FAST FACTS



Photo: Engraving of two marine species

Background

As well as culturally significant rock art, Murujuga is also home to industry that contributes significantly to the local, state and national economy and employment.

Concerns the rock art could be damaged by industrial air emissions has led to a number

of independent scientific studies and rock art monitoring since the mid-2000s. Recent independent reviews identified a number of improvements that could be made to the rock art monitoring program to provide more reliable information about the impacts of air emissions on the rock art.

The Murujuga Rock Art Strategy builds on previous work to deliver an improved approach to monitoring, analysis and management that will be implemented collaboratively across the program to protect Murujuga's rock art.

Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group

The Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group has been appointed by the Minister for Environment to assist with engagement between the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and key government, industry and community representatives on the development and implementation of the Murujuga Rock Art Strategy.

The Stakeholder Reference Group includes representatives from the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, Australian Government and State Government departments, the Pilbara Ports Authority, the Western Australian Museum, the City of Karratha, industry and scientists.

Murujuga World Heritage nomination

In recognition of its unique cultural, spiritual and archaeological values, Murujuga is being nominated for World Heritage listing.

The World Heritage nomination will be for those significant areas of Murujuga where there is a management framework in place that can adequately conserve and protect its World Heritage value. The Murujuga Rock Art Strategy and Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program are important components of this management framework supporting coexistence between Aboriginal heritage values and industry on Murujuga.



Photo: Turtle engravings



Photo: Quoll engraving

Strategy review

The Murujuga Rock Art Strategy will be reviewed at least every five years. This will ensure it remains current, supports appropriate governance arrangements, and the best available scientific knowledge and management practices are used to protect the rock art.

Environmental management

The Murujuga Rock Art Strategy establishes a framework that provides a transparent, risk-based and adaptive approach to monitoring, analysis and management. It is being implemented to protect Murujuga's rock art from the potentially harmful effects of air emissions from industry and shipping.

Environmental monitoring data will be assessed against scientifically based benchmarks. It will then be determined if a management response is required to protect the rock art on Murujuga from the effects of these emissions.

The Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program

The scientific monitoring and analysis program will evaluate and report on changes and trends in the condition of the rock art and whether the rock art is showing signs of accelerated change. Calibre has been appointed to develop the monitoring program, which will be overseen by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, in consultation with national and international subject matter experts and the Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group.

The monitoring program, including the analysis and results of the monitoring, will be independently peer reviewed. This will ensure the best available scientific information guides management responses.

The *Murujuga Research Protocols* have been developed by the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation as a set of governing principles and guidelines to ensure research is conducted in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner.



Photo: Hearson's Cove



Photo: Shell midden



Photo: Turtle with eggs engraving

