

Petitions seek Burrup protection

ROEBOURNE Shire residents were asked to sign two petitions following a public rally hosted by the shire and held at Hearson Cove on Sunday morning, with 100-plus signing immediately and others taking copies to distribute within the wider community.

One petition was raised by the Shire of Roebourne and called on the State Parliament to consider vesting the Northern Burrup in the

Shire of Roebourne 'to be held in trust for the use and enjoyment of the community'.

The second petition was raised by Greens (WA) and called on State Parliament to consider the cultural and ecological importance of the region known as 'Murujuga', the Burrup Peninsula and surrounding rock art province.

This petition asked State Parliament to 'afford permanent protection to this province and

divert industrial development to the alternative location of Maitland Industrial Estate'.

The petition asked State Parliament to consider:

- A review of the cultural, environmental and heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula;
- The adequacy of statutory mechanisms for the strategic assessment of the impacts of further industrial development at the Burrup

its cultural, environmental and heritage values; and

- Urgent remedies to facilitate full assessment of the relative benefits and cumulative impacts of the proposed developments.

The International Rock Art Federation launched a website late last week that features some of the petroglyphs (rock art) that currently exists on the Burrup.

Concerns rejected

ROEBOURNE - based Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi elder Trevor Solomon has issued a statement on the group's claim to the Northern Burrup.

He rejected concerns the public would not be able to access the Northern Burrup if the State Government granted conditional freehold title to the land.

The Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi is one of three registered Native Title claimant groups claiming the area, with the others being the Wong-goo-it-oo and Yaburara Mardhudunera.

All claims are before the Federal Court, with a decision expected within several months, and the three groups are now negotiating with the State Government over a range of issues, including a multi-million dollar settlement and conditional freehold title to

the Northern Burrup.

"We share the concerns of the people of Karratha about the impact of the proposed development on the cultural and heritage and the natural environment," he said.

"That is why we are doing all we can to protect the remainder of the Burrup.

"The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people recognise that their right to negotiate under the native Title Act is not a right of veto, we can't stop the development by withholding our consent to it.

"We have explained to the Shire of Roebourne that our aim is to protect the Burrup, not exclude people from visiting there.

"Up to now the Shire of Roebourne has not been successful in protecting the Burrup."

Heavy rain welcomed

PORT Hedland had its wettest June day on record, with 127mm of rain in 24 hours, greater than the previous highest reading of 62mm set in 1993.

Other heavy falls on the same day were Karratha 63mm and Roebourne 65mm.

According to the meteorological office the heavy rainfall was as a result of a strong North Easterly combined with a North Westerly under a cloud band which caused record falls along the Pilbara coast as the wind moved slowly across the region.

