



CAMPAIGNERS: Burrup fans show their support for the Burrup Peninsula

Standing up for Burrup

GREENS party representatives joined with friends and family to do a Stand Up for the Burrup action at the Glenbourne community, Margaret River on September 8.

The action was part of a world-wide campaign to stop the destruction of ancient rock art on the Burrup Peninsula, in the Pilbara.

“The Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga) is the largest and possibly oldest rock art precinct area in the world,” Greens candidate for Stirling Tamara Disiatov said.

“This place is akin to walking into a gallery, or a church and should not be further destroyed for the sake of some minerals.”

She said the State Government had granted development leases to industry on the peninsula since the 1970s, without knowing what is up there.

“Some of the rock art has already been moved or destroyed and this will only be worsened if the Woodside Pluto gas processing plant goes ahead on the Burrup/Murujuga,” she said.

“Relocating the rock art is vandalism—we would never allow our churches or sacred areas like Stonehenge—to be dissected and destroyed like this.

“The Greens are not opposed to development, we just want it moved somewhere more suitable.”

In 2006 The Department of Industry and Resources said that under the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement with the local indigenous peoples, and under the local town planning scheme, a maximum of 38 per cent of the land surface of the Burrup is zoned for industry.

“This will not be expanded,” a spokesperson said.

“There are many misconceptions about the impact that industry is having on the rock art of the Burrup.

“The State Government commissioned a four-year scientific study under an independent committee (chaired by Professor Frank Murray of Murdoch University) to investigate the potential for industrial emissions to impact on rock art.”