

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Tuesday, 12 February 2019**

**C007. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment**

I refer to Australia being on UNESCO's Heritage Committee until the end of 2021, which means a submission for the Burrup for World Heritage listing (WHL) cannot be put in until 2022, and ask:

1. Will the Minister in the meantime put the Burrup on the World Heritage Tentative list, therefore allowing time to compile a substantial case together with the Aboriginal custodians of the land for the WHL?
2. If no to (1), why not?
3. If yes to (1), when?
4. What progress to date has been made on either the preparation of support documentation for either the World Heritage Tentative list nomination or indeed the WHL nomination?
5. Has the Commonwealth Government's Minister for the Environment responded to the letter Ref 59-074266 advising of the state's desire to progress WHL?
6. If yes to (5), on what date and will the Minister table the response?

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**Answer**

1. Yes.
2. Not applicable.
3. The Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and State Government will prepare a Tentative List Submission for Murujuga in 2019 for submission to the Commonwealth Government, with the view to having it added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in early 2020.
4. Preparation of the Tentative List Submission has begun. Progress includes the establishment of an Interagency Taskforce and Heritage Committee to prepare and inform the nomination, with meeting schedules determined for 2019. An expert World Heritage Advisor has been engaged to provide technical advice on the nomination process. A draft communication and engagement strategy is in development, and reference materials are being compiled to complete each of the required components of the Tentative List Submission.
5. Yes.
6. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment responded on 1 November 2018. I table the attached



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC  
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; DISABILITY SERVICES**

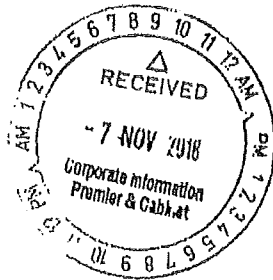


THE HON MELISSA PRICE MP  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MS18-001299

The Hon Mark McGowan MLA  
Premier of Western Australia  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Mr Peter Jeffries  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation  
P.O. Box 1544  
KARRATHA WA 6714



1 NOV 2018

Dear Premier and Mr Jeffries

*Mark and Peter,*

Thank you for your letter regarding the intention to progress a nomination of the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago for World Heritage Recognition. I agree it is timely that the outstanding heritage value to the nation for which the Burrup and the Dampier Archipelago is recognised and protected for National Heritage significance is also considered for its potential Outstanding Universal Value in accordance with the World Heritage Convention.

The Australian Government (the Government) welcomes working in partnership with the Western Australian Government and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) as a representative of traditional owners and custodians of the area on this matter. In your correspondence, there is an absent signature from the Yaburara people. In addition to the letter, I understand free, prior, and informed consent was provided verbally by the Murujuga Circle of Elders, a governance body of MAC that represents the five traditional owner and custodian groups.

The Western Australian Government is now responsible for submitting a nomination to the Australian World Heritage Tentative List. If included on the Tentative List, the Western Australian Government is responsible for developing and funding a nomination for World Heritage listing in consultation with MAC. Technical assistance is provided by the Government.

Australia is a current member on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and will not be in a position to provide new nominations until the term is completed in 2021. Nominations for inclusion on the tentative list may be received in this period. I endorse the possible timings outlined in your correspondence.

Murujuga traditional owners and custodians must remain deeply engaged with, and have ownership over the process if a World Heritage nomination is to be successful.

The Government considers genuine consultation with traditional owners and custodians as being at the forefront of its past, current and future approach to management of the Indigenous heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula. I commend the establishment of an Interagency Taskforce and Heritage Committee to oversee implementation of the owners' wishes. The Government seeks to participate in these forums. Please forward inquiries relating to the Government's participation on these committees to David Williams, Assistant Secretary Heritage Branch; david.williams@environment.gov.au.

I look forward to working in partnership with traditional owners and custodians, MAC, and the Western Australian Government in internationally recognising the extraordinary cultural values of the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago.

Yours sincerely



MELISSA PRICE