

Dear FARA/Murujuga supporters,

February 2021

As we face 2021 with some trepidation, given the devastation of fires, climate change and an insatiable pandemic, I hope we can cheer you with some good news on the Murujuga rock art front.

The WA Appeals Convenor is currently preparing a report for the Minister about our appeal against the totally inadequate emissions controls allowed within **Yara Pilbara's new licences** for their Fertiliser and Ammonium Nitrate plants. We have our fingers crossed for a favourable decision which could significantly affect other industries on the Burrup. If not, there are other avenues FARA can pursue...

Given the **Environmental Defenders' Office's** recent successes in opposing the expansionist plans of the fossil fuel industry ([Bylong Valley](#) and [Dendrobium Coal Mine Extension](#) in NSW, and [Acland Coal Mine](#) in Qld) we are pleased to see that they will be representing **WA's Conservation Council (CCWA)** in a challenge against environmental approvals granted in 2019 to process further gas at **Woodside's N-W Shelf and Pluto LNG plants**. It is claimed that the impact of 6-billion extra tonnes of carbon pollution on the climate and the Aboriginal rock art were not adequately assessed when the approvals were granted.

See the **CCWA's report** [Burrup Hub: Australia's most polluting fossil fuel project. Why Woodside's Burrup Hub development should not proceed](#). Hopefully this pressure, as well as lower energy prices and uncertainty about post-Covid global economic recovery, will bring a final halt to Woodside's Burrup Hub plans and those of piggyback companies like [Perdaman](#) and its proposed Urea plant. How sickening that it all comes down to \$\$\$ in the end... not an environmental/cultural heritage scruple amongst them!!

And then there's the question of the new **hydrogen revolution!** [Yara](#) is planning a green hydrogen plant (produced from solar) adjacent to its current plants, but fortunately this has stalled at the PER stage because of threatened rock art sites and visual pollution in the midst of the Murujuga National Park. Aided by a recent \$2 million grant from the WA government, this green hydrogen initiative could expand Yara's operations indefinitely – and without strict limits to its emissions, the petroglyphs will continue to be degraded... There is no reason why this eyesore should not be placed on the Maitland Industrial Estate, especially as reports are currently being prepared to make the case for World Heritage listing.

Of course, you'd expect **Twiggy** to get in on the green hydrogen bandwagon too. It would be wonderful to believe all that he promised in his recent Boyer lecture – aptly titled [Oil vs water: Confessions of a carbon emitter](#). Then the next week we heard that he's planning for a new gas-fired power station to feed his Solomon Hub! And we wonder how his philanthropic nature will hold up when the Yindjibarndi settle their legal case against FMG soon...

Just before Christmas **350.org** launched its very daunting [Captured State](#) report which revealed, through FOI evidence, how many strategic donations were made by the gas industry in the past 4 years just before/after meetings with the WA Premier and his Ministers. It also exposed the revolving-door practice in Australia, particularly WA, whereby retired politicians become industrial company executives, or retired CEOs become

government advisors... Seems they've got it all sewn up: what chance for little David against such a corrupt Goliath? Hopefully our March WA election shakes things up?

We urge ALL FARA supporters to:

- **download and read the Captured State report; highlight its findings**
- **(WA supporters) arrange a visit your local State MP prior to the March 11 election, when politicians will be most attentive to your concerns!**
- **make clear your concerns about the WA LNG industry's ongoing threat to the Burrup rock art and global CO2 emissions**
- **join 350.org's Letters to the Editor campaign to all major newspapers -- stating why overt lobbying by the gas industry concerns you**
- **respond to the ABC's request for what matters most to you**

On Wed 10/2 CCWA is providing an online [WA Candidates' Forum on Climate, Energy, Environment](#). It is a great opportunity to hear what our local political candidates promise for the future. You can submit a probing question [here](#).

FARA's 2021 Murujuga Tour: tentatively planned for late July/early Aug, it is still a work in progress as we negotiate various cultural aspects with MAC and accommodation availability. With a substantial waiting list we definitely hope to deliver, and still welcome enquiries at tour@fara.com.au, especially from WA-based folk (who luckily avoid interstate travel).

Finally, for those in WA, **FARA's AGM is on Sat 20 March** at 2pm, so please renew those memberships www.fara.com.au and come along if you can. We fortunately still have Robin Chapple's offices at 41 Havelock St available to us until April, and hopefully afterwards too.

At this point we would like to pay **special tribute to Robin**, who is retiring from politics, as a stalwart fighter for the Burrup rock art since the 1980s – from whose enthusiasm and encouragement FARA has grown to what it is today. We are so going to miss you and your support, Robin and hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement up in Derby!

We love having our supporters on board in our quest to save the irreplaceable Murujuga petroglyphs – please feel free to send any questions or suggestions you'd like to make and we look forward to catching up with some of you at our AGM...

Yours sincerely,

Judith Hugo & Marie Ferland, Co-convenors

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