

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



Why nominate Murujuga and what will it mean?

The Western Australian Government recognises the Traditional Owners and custodians of Murujuga; the past, present and future generations of Ngarda-Ngarli, and their ongoing connection to this sacred country.



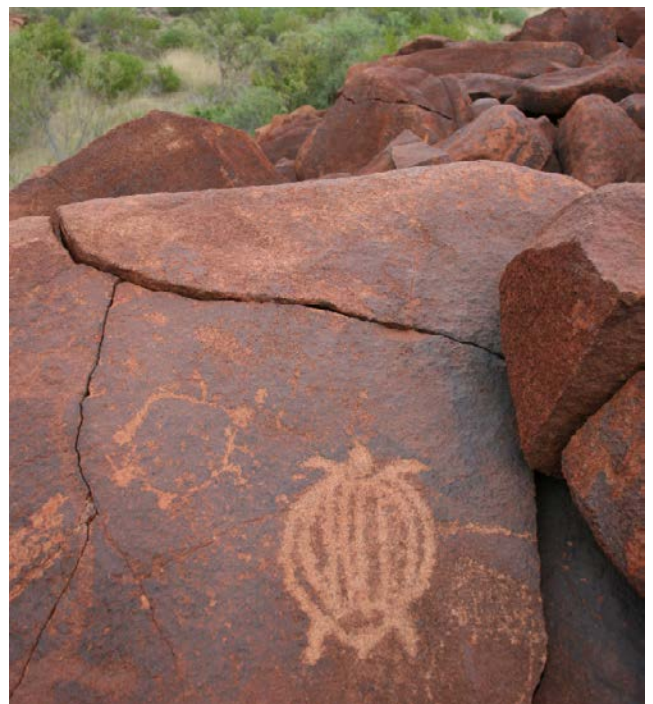
About Murujuga

Murujuga is the traditional Aboriginal name for the Dampier Archipelago and surrounds, including the Burrup Peninsula and Murujuga National Park. Located in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia, Murujuga is about 1250 kilometres north of Perth. It is home to the Ngarda-Ngarli¹ people, a collective term for the five Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Yaburara, Mardudhunera and Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo², who have been part of this cultural landscape for tens of thousands of years and have a deep and spiritual connection to it. These groups are represented by the [Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation](#) (MAC).

Why is Murujuga being nominated?

Murujuga, meaning “hip bone sticking out” in the Ngarluma-Yaburara language, refers to Murujuga Country and Sea Country and consists of a narrow peninsula of land as well as 42 inshore islands. Murujuga is being nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List to have the unique cultural, spiritual and archaeological values of the area internationally recognised at the highest level.

With more than one million images, Murujuga is home to one of the largest, densest and most diverse collections of rock art in the world. It is estimated to contain more than one million petroglyphs, which provide an archaeological record of traditional use of the area over thousands of years. The engravings show human images, extinct animal species such as megafauna and Thylacines (Tasmanian tiger), as well as existing avian, marine and land animals. The area also features middens, fish traps, rock shelters, ceremonial places and stone arrangements. The rock art has deep meaning for Ngarda-Ngarli, providing a tangible link to stories, customs and knowledge of their land and resources, connecting them to the events and people of the past and their beliefs today.



Who will prepare the nomination?

MAC is working in partnership with the Western Australian Government to prepare the Murujuga World Heritage nomination, in collaboration with the Australian Government and stakeholders. The leadership and cultural guidance of MAC is central to this World Heritage nomination process, to ensure that it adequately articulates the meaning of Murujuga to the Traditional Owners, their connection to this country and aspirations for it.

¹ Pronounced as Nar-da Nar-lee.

² Pronounced as Nar-loo-ma, Inn-gee-barn-dee, Ya-boo-da-ra, Mar-du-thun-ira, Wong-goo-too.



When will Murujuga be nominated?

The first step is to prepare a World Heritage Tentative List Submission for the Australian Government's consideration and submission to the UNESCO [World Heritage Centre](#)³.

The UNESCO deadline for Tentative List Submissions is 1 February each year and it is hoped to have Murujuga added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in February 2020. This is the first major step in the nomination process, as a property cannot be considered for World Heritage Listing by the [World Heritage Committee](#)⁴ until it has been on the Tentative List for at least 12 months. Following Tentative Listing, a formal and more comprehensive nomination dossier will be prepared.

The preparation of a World Heritage nomination is a complex and challenging task. The Australian Government estimates that preparing a World Heritage nomination takes at least 2.5 years.

If Murujuga is World Heritage Listed, how will the area be managed?

A World Heritage nomination is just the start of a much longer journey toward greater recognition of an area. World Heritage properties are required to have an effective protection and management system to protect the World Heritage values for which they are listed. The existing national, State and local laws and regulations in place for Murujuga will remain and continue to guide management and decision making in the area.

World Heritage Listing will not in itself change:

- ownership of land;
- the way land and waters are managed, including the joint management arrangements for the Murujuga National Park;

- existing land uses and activities, including the ability for Ngarda-Ngarli to undertake [customary activities](#);
- people's ability to enjoy the range of recreational activities available around Murujuga, or commercial tour operations.

World Heritage Listing will:

- recognise the significance of Murujuga at an international level as one of the world's outstanding examples of cultural heritage;
- provide a new way of promoting Murujuga as an iconic tourism destination;
- create an obligation on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to ensure the World Heritage values of the area are conserved so existing and future generations can enjoy them;
- create the requirement for development proposals that are likely to significantly affect World Heritage values to be referred to the Australian Government for a decision on whether assessment is needed. This is already the case in relation to protecting the National Heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago.

Stakeholder consultation

A successful World Heritage nomination requires a collaborative and cooperative approach. Effective and comprehensive stakeholder engagement is a key component of the nomination process to ensure the social, economic, spiritual and cultural values of Murujuga are carefully considered.

How can I be involved?

MAC and the Western Australian Government welcomes stakeholder involvement in the nomination process. To register for updates, please visit pws.dbca.wa.gov.au/murujuga.



³ UNESCO stands for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The World Heritage Centre is the focal point and coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage.

⁴ The World Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List.