

**REPORT ON AN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE**

**KING BAY SUPPLY BASE EASTERN LEASES WITH THE**

**WONG-GOO-TT-OO GROUP**

Prepared for Astron Engineering Pty. Ltd.

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## ABSTRACT

An Aboriginal heritage survey of the King Bay Supply Base Eastern Leases was commissioned by Astron Engineering Pty. Ltd. and carried out by R.O'Connor and the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo group in April 2003.

The survey revealed that the major part of the leases in question had been previously heavily disturbed in the course of nearby developments. The remaining engraving sites within that previously disturbed area can, by and large, be readily moved to another location in order to make way for development to occur. Recommendations in that regard are contained in this report.

The survey also revealed that the south-eastern corner of the leases contains engraving sites that are of significance to the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people, and that they would object strongly to their disturbance. Some of these sites have been recorded previously; some are newly recorded and are included as such in this report. The report also contains recommendations in respect of this culturally significant corner of the leases.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

This report, which is based on a period of field research carried out in April 2003, was commissioned by Astron Engineering Pty. Ltd., Karratha, ("Astron") on behalf of BGC Contracting. The purpose of the research was to consult with the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo native title claimant group in regard to Aboriginal heritage issues relevant to the proposed development of the King Bay Supply Base, Dampier, Eastern Leases ("the Project"), and thereby ensure compliance with obligations arising from the provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*, as amended.

### 1.2 Research Brief

The Project location is shown in Figure One; the Project area is within the heavy black line in Figure Two. Previously recorded Aboriginal sites are also shown in Figure Two (but see author's disclaimer below).

Within the Project area, as thus defined, the objectives of the survey were to:

- (i) identify any Aboriginal sites as determined by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*; and
- (ii) ascertain whether or not work on the Project will disturb any such site.

The research brief also requires that the findings of the survey are to be reported in a format suitable to enable the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee of the Department of Indigenous Affairs to:

- (i) determine whether there is an Aboriginal site within the survey area, and
- (ii) evaluate the importance and significance of any such site.

This survey dealt only with sites of significance to living Aboriginal people. It did not address archaeological or other environmental matters which, it is the author's understanding, have been dealt with as separate issues.

### 1.3 Disclaimer

A report on previous archaeological research relevant to the Project area and on previously recorded archaeological sites in its vicinity was prepared in advance of the field survey by Donald Lantzke of Australian Interaction Consultants. Data and maps from that report were supplied to the author and the Aboriginal people by Astron and were used as a source of baseline data during the survey. Because the background research had already been conducted, Astron did not require the author of this report to carry out an inspection of material relating to previous heritage surveys and previously recorded Aboriginal sites in the vicinity of the survey area held in the library at the Department of Indigenous Affairs. There are obvious reasons why this is not an entirely satisfactory methodology. Accordingly, the author of this report is not in any way responsible for any errors or omissions that may occur in the analysis and reproduction of the Aboriginal heritage database.

## 2.0 THE SURVEY

### 2.1 Justification

Members of the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo native title claimant group were involved in the survey for the following reasons.

- The group has lodged an application for determination of native title over lands which include the survey area. Paragraph 5.1 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Procedures Manual (2002)* advises that all relevant native title claimant groups should be involved in heritage surveys.
- Elders of the group have given extensive evidence regarding their ancestral ties to lands which include the survey area in the course of recent native title determinations hearings in the Federal Court of Australia, both on site and in courtroom environments.
- Members of the group have demonstrated to the Federal Court of Australia, in the course of the above hearings, that they have extensive knowledge of heritage sites, including formerly unknown water-sources, on the Burrup Peninsula.
- The Hicks family has an ancestral connection, which precedes European settlement, with both the Roebourne and Karratha Station areas, and members have demonstrated that connection to the Federal Court of Australia by submission of relevant archival records.

## 2.2 Participating Members

The field survey was carried out on 26 and 27 April 2003. Participants on 26 April were W.Hicks, I.Dale, T.Douglas, E.Ramirez, W.Hicks and J.Todd; participants on 27 April were C.Hicks, W.Hicks, E.Ramirez, J.Todd, A.Hicks and T.Douglas. Mr Douglas is the senior tribal Law person for the group and a registered applicant on the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo application for determination of native title; Mr W.Hicks is a senior tribal Law person and a registered applicant on the same application; Mr C.Hicks is a registered applicant on the same application; Mr E.Ramirez is the senior member of the Ramirez family and an applicant on the same application; the remaining persons are claimant group members.

## 2.3 Methodology and Recording Methods

Within the parameters of the research brief, as detailed above, a *Site Identification Survey* methodology, as described in the *Aboriginal Heritage Procedures Manual (2002)* was used in the course of the field survey. This is described as follows.

*Ethnographic research involves the identification and recording of Aboriginal sites, as defined under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, through interviews and field inspections with Aboriginal Consultants. This process has been termed a "site identification survey"...During the ethnographic research process, the Aboriginal Consultants are asked about their associations with the area under consideration and whether they know of the existence of any places that might be considered Aboriginal sites. If such places are identified, the Aboriginal Consultants are asked to provide details of their nature and extent. Although the ethnographer may record detailed cultural information about the place(s), this will not necessarily be communicated to the proponent, as it may be deemed highly culturally sensitive by the Aboriginal Consultants.*

The issue of cultural sensitivity and restrictions on inclusion of certain cultural information in a potentially public report becomes pertinent in the course of discussions of newly recorded heritage sites below. Relevant to this point also is the fact that the neat academic distinction between "archaeological" and "Aboriginal" sites is not necessarily tenable in the face of Aboriginal cultural concerns. Sites which contain culturally restricted material are not the sole province of so-called archaeological "experts".



### 3.0 THE FIELD SURVEY

#### 3.1 Consultative Process

A meeting was held with the elders of the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo group on the evening of 25 May 2002 and the proposed field survey was discussed. A survey team for the following morning was selected. This consisted of the six representatives listed above. A different survey team, also listed above, completed the work on the following day. Access was adequate for the purposes of the survey and visibility excellent. The survey team was briefed by Mr J.Nicolson on the morning of the first day and the maps which are included in this report were given to the author.

The survey team commenced at Site 9297 and worked systematically through the Project area, covering the ground in a series of roughly north-east/south-west parallel transects. As is the normal pattern of Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo surveys, the regular coverage was varied where rocky outcrops or creek-lines offered likely heritage site locations. Roughly, the northern half of the Project area and the south-western quarter were covered in the course of the first day.

At the request of the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo representatives, Mr Nicolson participated again late in the morning of the second day for the purpose of viewing engravings on both sides of the creek-line discussed in 3.3 below. Mr Douglas explained the ritual significance of certain of the abstract motifs at that time and also sang sacred songs pertaining to them. Protection of the engravings in this area was

also discussed during the on-site meeting.

### 3.2 Results of Survey - Previously Recorded Sites

All sites shown on Figure Two, as prepared by Astron, were located, inspected and assessed by the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo survey team. Results of that inspection are as follows.

Site 9297 was identified and inspected. Although it is listed in the Aboriginal Site Register as an engraving site, the only component remaining today in this highly disturbed area overlooking King Bay Road is what may be a standing stone of Aboriginal origin. The location of this stone suggests the possibility that it was erected for mischievous reasons by non-Aboriginal persons. The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo representatives do not consider this stone to be of high significance and would not object to its disturbance.

Site 9772 was identified and inspected. Plates One and Two show aspects of this site. The engravings contained within it are of high significance to the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people because of their association with their ancestors, and they would object to their destruction. They therefore requested that, if development of the Project area proceeds, the engraved boulders should be carefully moved, under their supervision, to a location where they will not be again disturbed. The engraved foot shown in Figure Two could not be readily moved, as it is located on a massive 1.5m x 3.5m x 1m boulder. In this case, the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo group has requested that the

King Bay Supply Base Eastern Leases Ethnographic Survey. April 2003. PAGE 7

engraved section of boulder should be carefully removed, again under their supervision and relocated similarly to the other boulders from this site. There are also three stone pits within this site. In the case of the stone pits, the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people stated that they are of medium significance to them, because of their association with their ancestors. However, they would not object to their disturbance, subject to Ministerial consent being obtained, on the grounds that they are replicated in a large number of other areas on the Burrup Peninsula.

On the Aboriginal Site Register extract printout supplied by Astron to the author, Site 9773 is listed as "structure and engravings". If the map supplied by Astron is correct, then this site has been obliterated, as its location is at the edge of the slope that has been partly excavated to form the Toll Energy yard. There is no evidence of such a site remaining either at the recorded location or anywhere in the near vicinity of that location.

Site 9771 is listed as "engravings" and mapped at the eastern tip of a small rockpile approximately one hundred metres almost due south of Site 9773. If the mapped location is accurate, the engravings should still be identifiable, as the rocks shown in Figure Two are still in place, albeit with a degree of disturbance (this fact can be verified by scrutiny of Figure Three, an aerial photograph of the Project area and surrounds). However, an exhaustive search of the area by the entire Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo team failed to locate any engravings. There is, however, a small stone pit in this rock pile. In this case, the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people stated that the stone pit is of medium significance to them, because of its association with their ancestors. However, they would not object to its disturbance, subject to Ministerial consent

being obtained, on the grounds that it is replicated in a large number of other areas on the Burrup Peninsula.

Site 10289 is listed in the Aboriginal Site Register as a "structure". The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo representatives were unable to identify any structure at the location shown on the map supplied by Astron. However, adjacent to that location, at 475116E 7718994N, on the southern face of a 1.2m x 75cms x 1m boulder on the western side of a small rock pile, there are several linear gouges (see Plate Three). Although there has been heavy machinery activity in this general area, the rock pile and rock in question appear undisturbed. The markings appear similar to markings seen by the author elsewhere on the Burrup Peninsula and throughout the Northwest which are the result of stone-tool sharpening activity. This site is of moderate significance to the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people and they would object to its destruction. It could, however, be readily moved. They therefore requested that, if development of the Project area proceeds, the rock should be moved, under their supervision, to a location where it will remain undisturbed.

Site 10365 was identified and inspected. Heavy machinery has been active in the past in the gap between it and Site 9772, as can be seen from Figure Three. However, the engravings here have survived. They are of high significance to the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people and they would object to their destruction. They have therefore requested that they should be moved, under their supervision, to a location where they would not be further disturbed.

Site 9301 is listed in the Aboriginal Site Register as "engravings". Its mapped

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location is beside a now disused powerline, the construction of which involved a high degree of environmental disturbance. However, thorough inspection of this area revealed that one part of the site had survived the disturbance. It is a 12cms across deeply pecked semi-circle motif on a 1m x 70cms x 80cms boulder on the southern top of the rock pile that has been disturbed by powerline construction (see Plate Four). The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people consider this engraving to be of high significance to them because of its association with their ancestors and would object to its destruction. They have therefore requested that it should be moved, under their supervision, to a location where it would not be further disturbed.

As with the previous site, engraving site 9770 is located in an area that has been heavily disturbed by powerline and access road construction, and it is likely that aspects of it have been destroyed in the past. The remaining engraving located by the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo group is outside the Project area, but sufficiently close to be in danger of destruction should construction proceed. They consider this engraving to be of high significance to them because of its association with their ancestors and would object to its destruction. They have therefore requested that it should be moved, under their supervision, to a location where it would not be further disturbed.

Site 9774 is readily identified as the original Department of Aboriginal Sites marker peg is still wedged between rocks there. Again, this area has been heavily disturbed. However, the remaining four engraved boulders could be reasonably readily moved to make way for development. The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo team consider these engraving to be of high significance to them because of their association with their ancestors and would object to their destruction. They have therefore requested that

they should be moved, under their supervision, to a location where they would not be further disturbed.

Site 9775, which is listed in the Aboriginal Site Register as "structure" and "engravings" was not located. As there do not appear to be any suitable rocks in the location of Site 9775 marked on the map supplied by Astron, the possibility that this listing refers to some other location arises. The presence of a large number of site complexes in the rocky outcrops and scree slopes to the south-west and south-east suggests that this site may, in fact, be located in one or other of those areas. However, the fact that the author was not required to investigate the database prevents him from resolving this anomaly.

In the south-eastern corner of the Project area, Sites 9302, 9776, 9298, 10361, 9299, 9777, 9778 and 9779 were identified and inspected by the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo survey team. Outside the Project area, at the specific request of J.Nicolson of Astron, Sites 10290, 10291 and 9780 were identified and inspected. Discussion of the significance of these sites to the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people will be undertaken below following the discussion of newly recorded sites.

### 3.3 Results of Survey -Newly Recorded Sites

On a 1.2m x 40cms x 20cms boulder, at ground level on the northern side of a rockpile at 475267E 7718968N is a pecked outline of a fish or whale measuring 35cms long by 20cms wide. This engraving, which is shown in Plate Five,

is approximately forty metres almost due south of the remnant engraving in Site 9301.

In a valley between Sites 9777 and 9298, on a slope at 475347E 7718966N are an abstract motif and four kangaroo footprints (see Plates Six and Seven). The abstract motif, which is a pecked semi-circle 30cms across is on the eastern face of a 80cms x 40cms x 30cms rock; the kangaroo paws, which cover an area of 14cms x 14cms are on a small 30cms x 40cms x 10cms rock.

Between Sites 9777 and 9298, on the lower eastern side of the scree slope at 475377E 7718932N, a small (10cms x 4cms) "X" motif is located on the eastern face of a 80cms x 40cms x 50cms boulder (see Plate Eight). Three metres to the north of this engraving, a semi-circle approximately 15cms across is located on a 80cms x 50cms x 40cms rock.

A deep valley runs south-east from Site 9299 for a distance of approximately one hundred and fifty metres (150m), at which point it opens onto King Bay salt marsh and the mangroves flanking King Bay tidal creek. Site 10291 is previously recorded on the rocks facing the marsh on the western side of the valley. Site 9780 is previously recorded on a small rocky outcrop abutting the mangroves some fifty metres south-east of 10291. The valley, which shows evidence of holding water in ephemeral rock-pools after rain, is flanked on both sides by high rock walls, which give way to the west to lower and less rocky terrain, and to the east to a series of high hills which separate it from another similar valley. The walls and high ground on both the western and eastern sides of the first valley contain a series of engravings, and a spectacular standing stone, which appears to point to Site 9780. Plate Nine shows the

standing stone, with Site 9780 in the background. The author was not permitted by Mr Tim Douglas to photograph Site 9780 or any of the engravings on or over the valley walls, because a number of the motifs are of ritual significance. In accordance with Mr Douglas' instructions, the individual engravings are not described in this report, but will be listed and described on a Site Recording Form and submitted to the Department of Indigenous Affairs in due course. It is the author's opinion that the creek and its walls on either side, from Site 9299 to where it opens onto the salt marsh and also the area of marsh extending to Site 9780 constitute one site complex, for the following reasons:

- The engravings are culturally associated - this matter will be developed in the Site Recording Form;
- The engravings are topographically associated, in that they are part of a single geographical feature;
- The engravings are spatially associated, in that no single engraving is more than twenty-five metres from its nearest neighbour.

Because of the reproduction in the engravings in this site of numerous secret-sacred male-restricted motifs, Mr Douglas asked that access to the area should be restricted by construction of a fence and locked gate. He is particularly concerned that Aboriginal women or children may unintentionally stray into this area and view the male-restricted designs.

### 3.4 Discussion

The south-eastern corner of the Project area contains previously recorded Sites



9302, 9776, 9298, 10361, 9299, 9777, 9778 and 9779. It also contains the site complex associated with the valley south of Site 9299 and the other newly recorded sites described above. It is the opinion of the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo group that this corner of the Project area is in its totality an area of extremely high significance to them, not only for the extensive engraving complexes within it, but also for the ritual associations of certain of those complexes. They therefore oppose the proposal to allow development to proceed within this corner of the Project area. However, they have no objection to such development proceeding in the remainder of the Project area. They have also requested that the engravings moved from the area of development should be relocated, under their supervision, to the south-eastern undisturbed corner. Having inspected that area in detail, it is the author's opinion, based solely upon its heritage significance arising from the number, density and variety of motifs of engravings therein, that this area should be left undisturbed, that the engravings from the remainder of the area should be relocated into it and that it should be fenced off to prevent unauthorised access. The area in question is marked with a dotted line on Figure Two.

#### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the proposed development of the King Bay Supply Base Eastern Leases should proceed outside the area marked with a dotted line in Figure Two.
2. It is recommended that the area within the dotted line in Figure Two should remain undeveloped. This recommendation refers, not only to ground disturbance and construction activities, but also to access tracks, powerlines, or other ancillary services associated with the development of the area referred to in Recommendation One.
3. It is recommended that the individual engraved boulders within the area of permitted development should be moved, under the supervision of the Wong-Goo-Ti-Oo group (and other parties, as appropriate) into the non-developed area. In cases where boulders are of a size that precludes such movement, it is recommended that the engraved portions should be carefully removed, again under supervision as above, and relocated into the non-developed area.
4. It is recommended that the area where development does not occur should be fenced off to prevent unauthorised access.
5. It is recommended that the fence referred to in Recommendation Four should be extended towards the King Bay Creek to enclose Site 9780.

# LOCALITY MAP

Map area • Port Hedland  
Karratha

WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

PERTH

Woodside Energy  
Limited Gas Plant

BURRUP  
PENINSULA

Dampier Port Authority

Woodside Supply Base  
King Bay Supply Base

King  
Bay

Mermaid  
Sound

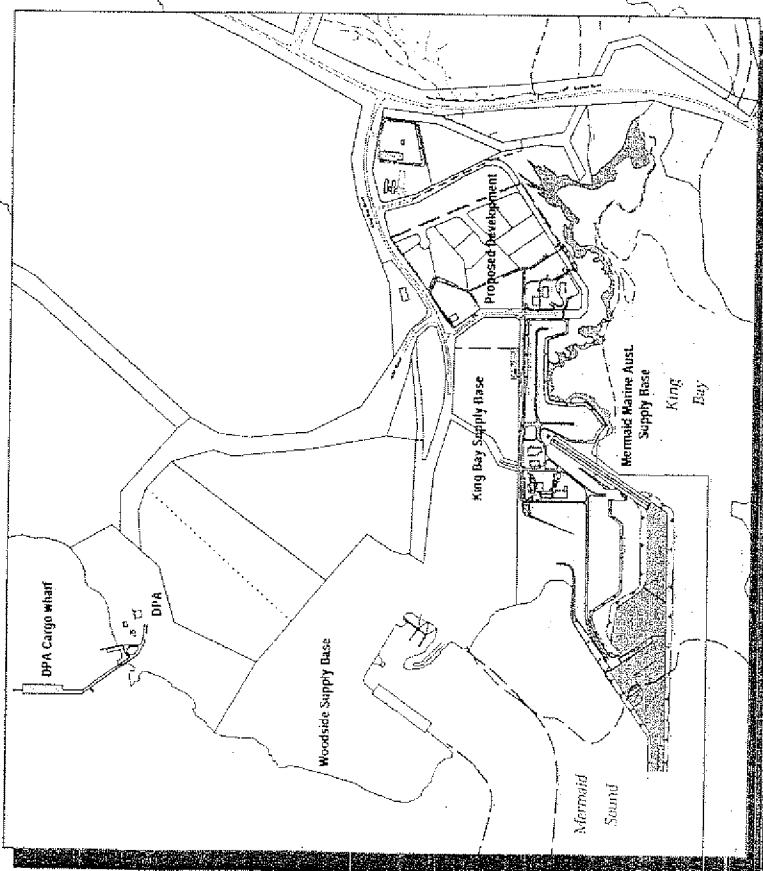
DAMPIER

Nickol  
Bay

Salt Ponds

KARRATHA

Proposed Development Area  
See inset Below



BGC Contracting  
Eastern Leases Development - Supply Base, Dampier  
**KING BAY EAST INDUSTRIAL AREA**  
**LOCATION MAP**

Auth: GP/JN Date: 4/03

Figure  
1  
Revision 'B'




KEY:

- P02400 REGISTERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
- P02401 REGISTERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (NO NUMBER RECORDED)
- P02402 BOUNDARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
- P02403 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE WITH 100M CLEAR AREA AS INDICATED
- P02404 SITES MAPPED BY ASTRON

0 50 100 150 200 250

METRES

HORIZONTAL GRID = AVG 04, VERTICAL DATUM = AHD



BGC Contracting  
EASTERN LEASES DEVELOPMENT - KING BAY SUPPLY BASE DAMPIER

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Figure 2

Revision A

Auth: GPF/JN Date: 04/03





Figure 3



Appendix One:

Notes on the *Aboriginal Heritage Act*

and

Appendix Two:

Notes on the Recognition of Aboriginal Sites.

Plates One and Two



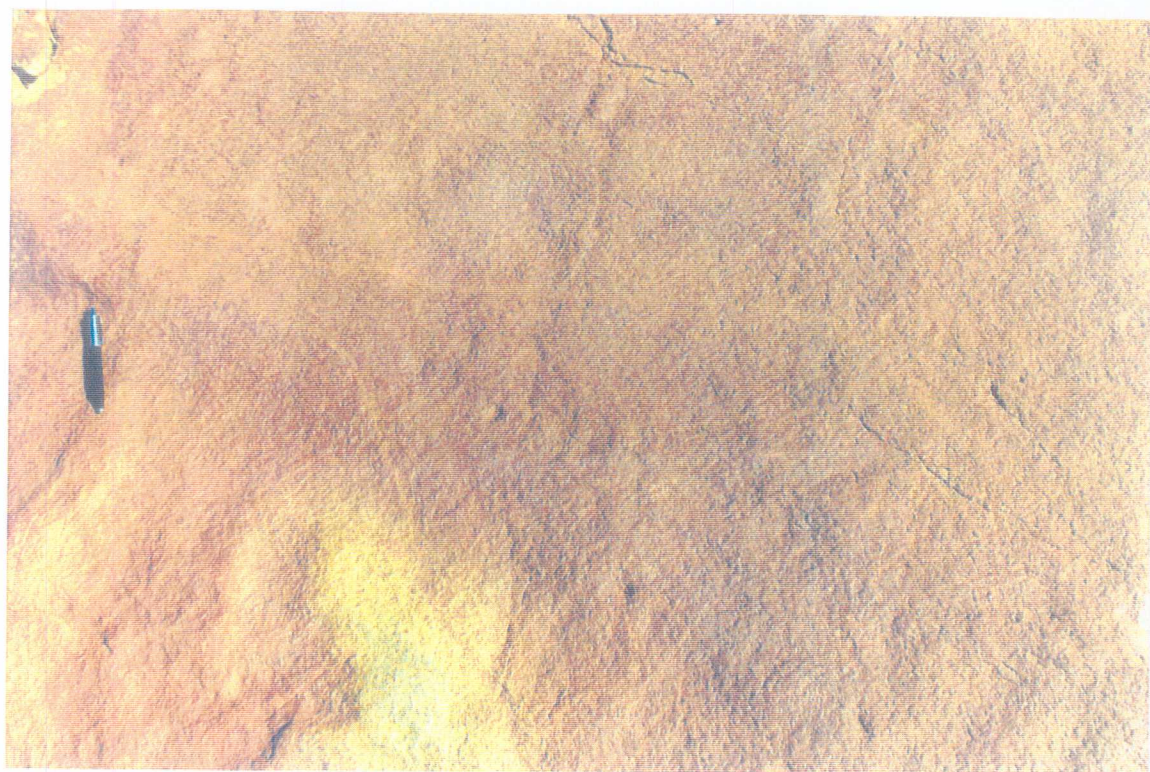


Plates Three and Four



Plates Five and Six





Plates Seven and Eight





Plate Nine







## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

#### OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO SITES UNDER THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT, 1972

##### Report of Findings

"15. Any person who has knowledge of the existence of anything in the nature of Aboriginal burial grounds, symbols or objects of sacred, ritual or ceremonial significance, cave or rock paintings or engravings, stone structures or arranged stones, carved trees, or of any other place or thing to which this Act applies or to which this Act might reasonably be suspected to apply shall report its existence to the Registrar, or to a police officer, unless he has reasonable cause to believe the existence of the thing or place in question to be already known to the Registrar."

##### Excavation of Aboriginal Sites

"16. (1) Subject to Section 18, the right to excavate or to remove any thing from an Aboriginal site is reserved to the Registrar.

(2) The Registrar, on the advice of the Committee, may authorise the entry upon and excavating of an Aboriginal site and the examination or removal of any thing on or under the site in such manner and subject to such conditions as the Committee may advise."

##### Offences Relating to Aboriginal Sites

"17. A person who-

(a) Excavates, destroys, damages, conceals or in any way alters any Aboriginal site; or

(b) In any way alters, damages, removes, destroys, conceals, or who deals with in a manner not sanctioned by relevant custom, or assumes the possession, custody or control of, any object on or under an Aboriginal site,

commits an offence unless he is acting with the authorisation of the Registrar under Section 16 or the consent of the Minister under Section 18."

##### Consent to Certain Uses

"18. (1) For the purposes of this section, the expression "the owner of any land" includes a lessee from the Crown, and the holder of any mining tenement or mining privilege, or of any right or privilege under the Petroleum Act, 1967, in relation to the land.

(2) Where the owner of any land gives to the Trustees notice in writing that he requires to use the land for a purpose which, unless the Minister gives his consent in this Section, would be likely to result in a breach of Section 17 in respect of any

## APPENDICES

Aboriginal site that might be on the land, the Committee shall, as soon as they are reasonably able, form an opinion as to whether there is any Aboriginal site on the land, evaluate the importance and significance of any such site, and submit the notice to the Minister together with their recommendations in writing as to whether or not the Minister should consent to the use of the land for that purpose, and, where applicable, the extent to which and the conditions upon which his consent should be given.

(3) When the Committee submit a notice to the Minister under subsection (2) of this section he shall consider their recommendation and having regard to the general interest of the community shall either -

(a) Consent to the use of the land the subject of the notice, or a specified part of the land, for the purpose required, subject to such conditions, if any, as he may specify; or

(b) Wholly decline to consent to the use of the land the subject of the notice for the purpose required,

and shall forthwith inform the owner in writing of his decision.

(4) Where the owner of any land has given to the Committee notice pursuant to the subsection (2) of this section and the Committee have not submitted it with their recommendation to the Minister in accordance with that subsection the Minister may require the Committee to do so within a specified time, or may require the Trustees to take such other action as the Minister considers necessary in order to expedite the matter, and the Committee shall comply with any such requirement.

(5) Where the owner of any land is aggrieved by a decision of the Minister made under subsection (3) of this section he may, within the time and in the manner prescribed by the rules of court, appeal from the decision of the Minister to the Supreme Court which may hear and determine an appeal.

(6) In determining an appeal under subsection (5) of this section the Judge hearing the appeal may confirm or vary the decision of the Minister against which the appeal has been made or quash the decision of the Minister, and may make such order as to the costs of the appeal as he sees fit.

(7) Where the owner of the any land gives notice to the Committee under subsection (2) of this section, the Committee may if they are satisfied that it is practicable to do so, direct the removal of any object to which this Act applies from the land to a place of safe custody.

(8) Where consent has been given under this section to a person to use any land for a particular purpose nothing done by or on behalf of that person pursuant to, and in accordance with any conditions attached to, the consent constitute an offence against the Act."

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### APPENDIX 2

#### Notes on the Recognition of Aboriginal Sites

There are various types of Aboriginal Sites, and these notes have been prepared as a guide to the recognition of those types likely to be located in the survey area.

An Aboriginal Site is defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972, in Section 5 as:

"(a) Any place of importance and significance where persons of Aboriginal descent have, or appear to have, left any object, natural or artificial, used for, or made for or adapted for use for, any purpose connected with the traditional cultural life of the Aboriginal people, past or present;

(b) Any sacred, ritual or ceremonial site, which is of importance and special significance to persons of Aboriginal descent;

(c) Any place which, in the opinion of the Committee is or was associated with the Aboriginal people and which is of historical, anthropological, archaeological or ethnographical interest and should be preserved because of its importance and significance to the cultural heritage of the state;

(d) Any place where objects to this Act applies are traditionally stored, or to which, under the provisions of this Act, such objects have been taken or removed."

#### Habitation Sites

These are commonly found throughout Western Australia and usually contain evidence of tool-making, seed grinding and other food processing, cooking, painting, engraving or numerous other activities. The archaeological evidence for some of these activities is discussed in details under the appropriate heading below.

Habitation sites are usually found near an existing or former water source such as a gnamma hole, rock pool, spring or soak. They are generally in the open, but they sometimes occur in shallow rock shelters or caves. It is particularly important that none of these sites be disturbed as the stratified deposits which may be found at such sites can yield valuable information about the inhabitants when excavated by archaeologists.

#### Seed Grinding

Polished or smoothed areas are sometimes noticed on/near horizontal rock surfaces. The smooth areas are usually 25cm wide and 40 or 50cm long. They are the result of seed grinding by the Aboriginal women and indicate aspects of past economy.

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### Habitation Structures

Aboriginal people sheltered in simple ephemeral structures, generally made of branches and sometimes of grass. These sites are rarely preserved for more than one occupation period. Occasionally rocks were pushed aside or used to stabilise other building materials. When these rock patterns are located they provide evidence for former habitation sites.

### Middens

When a localised source of shellfish and other foods has been exploited from a favoured camping place, the accumulated ashes, hearth stones, shells, bones and other refuse can form mounds at times several metres high and many metres in diameter. Occasionally these refuse mounds or middens contain stone, shell or bone tools. These are most common near the coast, but examples on inland lake and river banks are not unknown.

### Stone Artefact Factory Sites

Pieces of rock from which artefacts could be made were often carried to camp sites or other places for final production. Such sites are usually easily recognisable because the manufacturing process produces quantities of flakes and waste material which are clearly out of context when compared with the surrounding rocks. All rocks found on the sandy coastal plain, for example, must have been transported by human agencies. These sites are widely distributed throughout the State.

### Quarries

When outcrops of rock suitable for the manufacture of stone tools were quarried by the Aborigines, evidence of the flaking and chipping of the source material can usually be seen in situ and nearby. Ochre and other mineral pigments used in painting rock surfaces, artefacts and in body decoration are mined from naturally occurring seams, bands and other deposits. This activity can sometimes be recognised by the presence of wooden digging sticks or the marks made by these implements.

### Marked Trees

Occasionally trees are located that have designs in the bark which have been incised by Aborigines. Toeholds, to assist the climber, were sometimes cut into the bark and sapwood of trees in the hollow limbs of which possums and other arboreal animals sheltered. Some tree trunks bear scars where section of bark or wood have been removed and which would have been used to make dishes, shield, spearthrowers and other wooden artefacts. In some parts of the state wooden platforms were built in trees to accommodate a corpse during complex rituals following death.

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### Burials

In the north of the state, it was formerly the custom to place the bones of the dead on a ledge in a cave after certain rituals were completed. The bones were wrapped in sheets of bark and the skull placed beside this. In other parts of Western Australia the dead were buried, the burial position varying according to the customs of the particular area and time. Natural erosion, or mechanical earthmoving equipment occasionally exposes these burial sites.

### Stone Structures

If one or more stone are found partly buried or wedged into a position which is not likely to be the result of natural forces, then it is probable that the place is an Aboriginal site and that possibly there are other important sites nearby. There are several different types of stone arrangements ranging simple cairns or piles of stones to more elaborate designs.

Low weirs which detain fish when tides fall are found in coastal areas. Some rivers contain similar structures that trap fish against the current. It seems likely that low stone slab structures in the south west jarrah forests were built to provide suitable environments in which to trap some small animals. Low walls or pits were sometimes made to provide a hide or shelter for a hunter.

Elongated rock fragments are occasionally erected as a sign or warning that a special area is being approached. Heaps or alignments of stones may be naturalistic or symbolic representations of animals, people or mythological figures.

### Paintings

These usually occur in rock shelters, caves or other sheltered situations which offer a certain degree of protection from the weather. The best known examples in Western Australia occur in the Kimberley region but paintings are also found through most of the states. One of several coloured ochres as well as other coloured pigments may have been used at a site. Stencilling was a common painting technique used throughout the state. The negative image of an object was created by spraying pigment over the object which was held against the wall.

### Engravings

This term describes designs which have been carved, pecked or pounded into a rock surface. They form the predominant art form of the Pilbara region but are known to occur in the Kimberleys in the north to about Toodyay in the south. Most engravings occur in the open, but some are situated in rock shelters.

## APPENDICES

### Caches

It was the custom to hide ceremonial objects in niches and other secluded places. The removal of objects from these places, or photography of the places or objects or any other interference with these places is not permitted.

### Ceremonial Grounds

At some sites the ground has been modified in some way by the removal of surface pebbles, or the modeling of the soil, or the digging of pits and trenches. In other places there is not noticeable alteration of the ground surface and Aborigines familiar with the site must be consulted concerning its location.

### Mythological Sites

Most sites already described have a place in Aboriginal mythology. In addition there are many Aboriginal sites with no man-made features which enable them to be recognised. They are often natural features in the landscape linked to the Aboriginal Account of the formation of the world during the creative "Dreaming" period in the distant past. Many such sites are located at focal points in the creative journeys of mythological spirit beings of the Dreaming. Such sites can only be identified by the Aboriginal people who are familiar with the associated traditions.