

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 89  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.4  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Representatives at meetings re heritage listings  
**Hansard Page:** 70  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** Is the state government ever present at those? Do they have a representative?

**Mr Johnston:** The state government does come to those meetings. They are actually held up at the Burrup. There are other meetings held in Canberra and by teleconference which, generally, the state government does not attend. They do attend the annual planning meetings.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Time is a little short; I think I have only got 10 minutes or so. Could you provide for us on notice the make-up of those meetings? What is their standing? Who is the secretary? How they are convened? What is the membership of those meetings and how frequent are they?

**Mr Johnston:** Yes.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I would really appreciate that. I am particularly interested to know in what capacity the state government participates. Is it your understanding that the Burrup—we are talking of the entire precinct, the Dampier Archipelago and the area under National Heritage Listing—has never had a full heritage survey?

**Mr Johnston:** It was certainly assessed for National Heritage Listing back before its inscription.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I understand that.

**Mr Johnston:** I am not aware of what other assessment has been done.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Could you check for us?

**Mr Johnston:** Sure.

**Answer:**

- The make-up of and membership of the Murujuga annual strategic planning meetings has been as follows:
  - officials from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment
  - officials from Western Australian Government agencies including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Premier and Cabinet;
  - the local Aboriginal community including members of all three registered native title claim groups: the Ngarluma Yindjibarndi, Yaburara Mardudhunera and Won-goo-tt-oo peoples;
  - the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, specifically the Corporation's board, Circle of Elders, and Murujuga Rangers;

- industry parties to conservation agreements with the Commonwealth Environment Minister being Woodside Energy Ltd, and Rio Tinto (Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd and Dampier Salt Limited); and
- senior academics from the Centre for Rock art Research and Management, University of Western Australia.

The meetings are the primary stakeholder forum for coordinating the management and protection of the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) National Heritage place and in particular for setting strategic priorities for expenditure of funding under the conservation agreements.

The Department of the Environment performs secretariat functions for the meetings. The Department convenes the meetings and sets the agenda in consultation with the stakeholders listed above.

The state government participates in the meetings in its capacity as land manager of the National Heritage place.

There has been no single heritage survey of the entire Dampier Archipelago, including the approximately 36,860 hectares of the nationally listed place. The conservation agreements between the Commonwealth and industry stakeholders are funding surveys within the listed place, including annual 'field school' surveys by the University of Western Australia and Murujuga Rangers. In 2014, this survey covered an area of 3.9 hectares and recorded over 3000 rock art motifs.