



WARDAMAN DREAMING PROJECT

CUSTODIAN YIDUMDUMA - BILL HARNEY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Governing Council of Elders of the Wardaman Aboriginal Corporation expresses its whole-hearted support for the Project known as "The Wardaman Dreaming Project".

This Project is being headed and coordinated by Primary Investigator Mr Paul Taylor Adjunct Professor, University of Wyoming College of Education.

Mr Taylor is known to us and in particular by our Chairman and Senior Elder, Mr Ydumduma Bill Harney.

The Council of Elders recognises the importance of the proposed Project as an integral part of the work we have been supporting and encouraging for many years. That work is our imperative, to have recorded, by sophisticated and archivally friendly means, our ancient and extensive rock art.

We, the Elders of the Wardaman Tribe, Traditional owners of some 30,000 square kilometres of rich lands in the Victoria and Flora River Districts of the Northern Territory of Australia are cognisant of the fact that when the last few of us have passed away our mighty and rich heritage and its meanings will be lost.

We want the world to know of our heritage and the thousands of years of our history as a significant people. We want our descendents and other people, to be able to identify and interpret the meaning of us, as a people, laid out in our art and our dreamings.

By number and kind we have recorded a huge volume of our heritage in various media but still have barely touched the surface of the numerous depictions of our legacy.

We see this Project as being capable of recording and through the few of us who remain with the full knowledge of our culture, interpret for future generations, a few more chapters in our vast tapestry of life, in our Wardaman country.

Our Wardaman country and we are held by some of the worlds' foremost experts, as being a huge repository of art representative of our presence, the expression of our culture and knowledge gained over millennia.

A mere two of us are left who, yet can tell the stories represented in our art, soon we will both be gone.

The Project, Mr Paul Taylor and his team have our confidence and our unequivocal endorsement for this work.

We will work hard for this to be.

Yours faithfully,

Ydumduma Bill Harney

Chairman

29th October 2003