

Allan Carriage's speech to EDO Conference 13 May 2005

My Elders said to me to talk to National Parks. They are supposed to look after our culture, but all they have done is give Section 90 Consents to Destroy.

Our National Parks are not looking after our culture as they are supposed to be doing. They are there to destroy our culture.

What they are doing is using people who do not know anything about their own culture and using them to destroy our Aboriginal history in this country.

They have almost destroyed thousands of years old history of our people - a tool-making site, with a Kuradji man burial, at Sandon Point. We are still trying to save it.

They would not do any proper archaeological assessments and impact studies. They treated us like we were dirt. We are a race of people, like youse. And I believe all people are beautiful.

We had a Commission of Inquiry which reported in September 2003 and the Government has been sitting on it because it agreed with a lot of things we said about environment and culture and significant areas.

Therefore we need our non-Aboriginal brothers and sisters in this country to put our legal system and our government system right for the Aboriginal people, for this generation and future generations. And our Ministers and City Councils, our courts and our National Parks have to communicate with us about these issues. Developers should start listening to us too instead of treating us like we are nothing and trying to tie my hands together to try and bankruptcy me to stop me working on Sandon Point issues.

Growing up in this country as an Aboriginal boy I have seen many bush medicine plants and marine medicine disappear in this country and I have seen the fishing Industry go to the point of extinction of some breeds of fish in our waters too.

Our public do not realise how serious this matter is. If we want to leave something for our great, great, great, great grandchildren and also the real culture of this country, we have to start caring, sharing and looking after this beautiful country for the future of our great, great grandchildren. It is not about us no more.