

Protestors disrespectful of Traditional Owners' cultural ceremony

Protestors who verbally abused local Kimberley Traditional Owners performing a smoking ceremony at the official opening of Woodside's Broome offices today were extremely disrespectful.

Waardi Chairperson, Warren Greatorex, said the protestors showed no respect for traditional cultural practices and their behaviour was offensive and disappointing.

"Those ceremonies are very culturally significant and important," Mr Greatorex said. "The protestors were abusive and swearing at the Traditional Owners who were performing the smoking and it was extremely frustrating.

"Their behaviour was shameful."

Mr Greatorex said he had not been aware of any Aboriginal people in the crowd of protestors.

The Traditional Owners conducting the smoking ceremony included Yarawu and Jabirr Jabirr representatives.

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*Waardi Ltd was recently established by the Traditional Owners of Jabirr Jabirr country to manage future benefits arising from the Browse LNG project at James Price Point. Waardi is a Jabirr Jabirr word meaning people of the north.

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