

Rock art site plans enrage Greens

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SOME of the world's finest rock art could be obliterated under a plan to house six gas processing plants at a site on the Burrup Peninsula in the Pilbara, the WA Greens said today.

The Burrup is home to a massive cluster of petroglyphs, which are designs imprinted on cliffs and boulders.

Its ancient rock art engravings date back to the ice age and warrant World Heritage listing, say the Greens.

The peninsula is already the onshore base for the giant north-west shelf gas project.

"The Western Australian Government wants to abandon the peninsula to the chemical industry, with six giant gas processing plants proposed and more on the drawing board," Greens WA MLC Robin Chapple said on a Web information sheet.

Rock art would be damaged or relocated during construction and ongoing emissions of sulphur and nitrogen would form acidic compounds which could erase the work, Mr Chapple said.

Meanwhile, Climate Action Network Australia said greenhouse gas emissions would climb with the planned developments.

"The entire North-West shelf region and plans for it is a problem area for Australia's greenhouse gas emissions," CANA spokeswoman Anna Reynolds said.

-AAP

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