

GOVERNMENT MEDIA MONITORING UNIT

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STATION: ABC REGIONAL NEWS

SUBJECT: TALANTYRE - METHANOL PLANT EMISSIONS

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NEWSREADER

The Conservation Council says substances to be produced at a billion dollar methanol plant on the Burrup Peninsula near Karratha have the potential to cause illness.

The Methanex Corporation has received final environmental approval for its methanol project.

The Conservation Council's Chris Talantyre* says methanol is the main ingredient of a toxic water contaminant effectively banned in WA. He also says the plant will emit more than two million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, and other air emissions could impact on the world's oldest rock engravings on the Burrup.

Mr Talantyre* says the environmental threats the plant poses heavily out-weight its value to the state's economy.

TALANTYRE*

He said there was two hundred million dollars in royalties coming out of it, well we're talking about a project that's going to last for 40 years so that's worth, yeah, five million dollars a year in royalties. We could make that easily out of promoting the tourism and heritage values of the rock art.

ENDS...

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