



NATIONAL TRUST

Media Release

Dampier Rock Art Precinct Forum

On Friday 5 May 2006 a forum on the Heritage Values of the Dampier Rock Art Precinct (The Dampier Archipelago) will be held at the State Library Theatre.

A range of eminent speakers will present and discuss the issues surrounding the World's most significant petroglyph (rock art) site.

At no stage in the history of the Dampier Archipelago or the Burrup Peninsula has a proper inventory or evaluation been undertaken of the Heritage values of the area.

A large number of plans and strategies have been and are still being developed for industrial and tourist development of the region with little understanding of the values or the impacts on these values of this area.

The Burrup alone possibly contains a million petroglyphs of which possibly 10,000 have already been destroyed.

The Dampier Rock Art Precinct contains the largest collection of standing stones in Australia and the largest concentration of rock 'carvings' in the world. They are between 6,000 and 40,000 years old. As they remain under threat, the precinct has been placed on the World Monument Fund's List of 100 Most Endangered Places in the World.

The international heritage value is under sustained threat with the State Government agency's trying to preserve 60% of the 100%, they themselves have put at risk.

The ancient standing stones at Avebury and Stonehenge are both world heritage sites, are venerated for their antiquity and mystique, and are major tourist sites. Yet they are around a mere 4,500 years old.

The National Trust of Australia (WA) and its partners are working to remove the Dampier Rock Art Precinct from the 100 Most Endangered Places List and are seeking a win-win scenario for both heritage conservation and development..

See attached map for past, current and future destruction scenarios.

A Heritage perspective:

Dampier petroglyphs 6 - 40,000 years old
Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave (France) 32,410 years old
Stonehenge 4,500 years old
Pyramids 5,000 years old
The Buddhas of Bamiyan 1600 years old
Leaning tower of Pizza 634 years old
Nelsons Column 163 years old

For Media enquiries please contact the National Trust of Australia (WA) on (08) 9212 1119

Attached are a number of reports that address the key issues:

- *The National Trust of Australia “Trust News” Volume 34, Number 4, May 2006*
- *History of Planning and Development*
- *Desktop Study - Summary - Approaches to the Significance of the Art on Burrup and the Dampier Archipelago*
- *Map of the past, current and proposed development on the Burrup Peninsula and West Intercourse Island*

People who can be contacted with reference to the Heritage Values pertaining to the Dampier Rock Art precinct are:

Ken Mulvaney: 040 0772351, (08) 9183 0017

Robert Bednarik: (03) 95230549

Robin Chapple: 040 9379263, (08) 9212 1144

Department of Industry and Resources: 08 92223333

The Location of the Forum will be at the Alexander Library Theatre

The Alexander Library Building the home of the State Library of Western Australia and is located in the Perth Cultural Centre in Northbridge, between Francis Street and the James Street Mall.

