

Rare indigenous art 'bulldozed'



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From: AAP

GREENS leader Bob Brown says he witnessed bulldozers tearing into hilltops containing stunning Aboriginal artworks at the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia.

The Burrup site, estimated to contain up to one million pieces of artwork on boulders, has become highly contentious with the lucrative north-west gas industry eyeing that part of the peninsula for development.

Senator Brown and his Western Australian Senate colleague Rachel Siewert visited the site yesterday.

"I watched as bulldozers wrecked two hilltops containing ancient artwork and standing stones," he said in a statement.

"Gas processing factories threaten thousands more works if, for example, the WA Carpenter government's plan to save only 60 per cent of the art site is permitted.

"There are excellent nearby industrial sites but there is no replacing these stunning artworks dated between 4,000 and 40,000 years old once they are bulldozed."

Senator Brown said the Burrup is of global fame and importance as human heritage and the federal government faces a monumental decision on its future.

"The Howard government will be fostering the nation's best interests if it saves the Burrup Peninsula sites and ensures that industry expands at the alternative venues," he said.

Environment Minister Ian Campbell will make a decision on the National Heritage listing of the peninsula within the next few months.

The carved petroglyphs of the surrounding Dampier Archipelago – the world's largest collection of petroglyphs – were named as one of the world's 100 most endangered sites by the New York-based World Monuments Fund last year. Rare indigenous art 'bulldozed' GREENS leader Bob Brown says he witnessed bulldozers tearing into hilltops containing stunning Aboriginal artworks at the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia. The Burrup site, estimated to contain up to one million pieces of artwork on boulders, has become highly contentious with the lucrative north-west gas industry eyeing that part of the peninsula for development.

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