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Campbell to consider heritage request for Burrup peninsula. 04/09/2006.
ABC News Online

Last Update: Monday, September 4, 2006. 2:34pm (AEST)

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Documents recommending the heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula in northern Western Australia's Pilbara region are to be submitted to the federal Environment Minister amid a fresh warning the move could have disastrous economic consequences.

Indigenous claimants, the International Rock Art Federation and the National Trust nominated the site for inclusion on the National Heritage List earlier this year.

They say their recommendations aim to protect the peninsula's vast collection of ancient rock art.

Member for the state seat of Burrup Fred Riebeling fears the federal Minister, Senator Ian Campbell, will rule in favour of a heritage listing.

Mr Riebeling says this would be disastrous for the WA economy.

"What's going to happen is that everyone with potential to develop on that land will go elsewhere and that will put back Western Australia's economy [back] three, four years," he said.

"The Commonwealth, if they do it, should be condemned as the biggest economic vandals in the history of Australia."

Robin Chapple, from the National Trust of Western Australia, says heritage listing of rock art on the peninsula would not hamper the state's booming resources industry.

"I mean, currently industry is citing the fact that the Burrup is a world heritage area and are choosing to go to Onslow and the Maitland Industrial Estate," she said.

The federal Environment Minister has 20 days to decide whether the Burrup Peninsula should be listed or he may seek further public comment.