

Burrup rock art can move: EPA

REGINA TITELIUS
and CHRIS JOHNSON

Woodside Petroleum's \$5 billion Pilbara Pluto gas project moved two steps closer yesterday when the Environment Protection Authority approved moving ancient Aboriginal rock art and Federal Environment and Heritage Minister Ian Campbell said he would not allow National Heritage listing to constrain the project.

Alan Carpenter said he would welcome a joint approach from the Commonwealth Government on Burrup Peninsula heritage issues.

"We can't afford to stuff this up. The Commonwealth Government has got to stare reality in the face here. We are talking about the potential of inflicting massive damage on the Australian economy," he said.

The Premier said he believed the heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula could be protected sufficiently while the resource industry operating there could be allowed to flourish.

EPA chairman Wally Cox said

Woodside had acted responsibly by modifying its proposal to protect environment and heritage values on the peninsula.

The company had also negotiated with the Aboriginal community, limiting the proposed development to the north-eastern corner of the site where there was less rock art.

Senator Campbell said heritage values could be preserved without risking the resources project.

Some 35 rock art sites, dating back 20,000 years, will be affected by clearing to make way for infrastructure to support an LNG plant.

"I am confident that the National Heritage process can proceed, but in a way that the State Government and other economic stakeholders can continue with this important development," Senator Campbell told *The West Australian*.

"There is a balance to be struck here and we want it struck, but I will not be progressing with any National

Heritage listing until we have found a way to ensure this important development is not further constrained.

Senator Campbell presented his pro-industry plan to Cabinet yesterday and is expected to order a further consultation period before making his ruling.

The National Trust has attacked the EPA's support for Woodside's site preparation application.

National Trust WA chief executive officer Thomas Perrigo said the EPA had "got it wrong."

"The whole Burrup Peninsula has world heritage value and you can't just keep chipping away at it because that impacts on the value of the whole area," he said.

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert said Senator Campbell would be failing to protect rock art dating back to the last Ice Age, unless he added the whole area to the National Heritage list.

'The whole (Peninsula) has world heritage value and you can't just keep chipping away at it.'

THOMAS PERRIGO, NATIONAL TRUST WA



Heritage to move: Ancient Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula is due to make way for Woodside's natural gas plant