

Campbell has "no reason" not to protect the Burrup: Brown

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Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell has "no reason" to withhold protection for Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula, says Australian Greens leader Bob Brown.

Senator Campbell said on Monday it could be "many, many months" before he decides whether to add the Burrup Peninsula rock art in Western Australia's north to the National Heritage List.

But Senator Brown said today the minister had no excuse not to list the site.

"The National Heritage Council clearly stated that the Burrup is a site of outstanding national heritage values to the nation," he said in a statement.

"There is no reason to withhold protection for the ancient rock art any longer."

The site, said to include hundreds of thousands of petroglyphs, is several thousands of years old, dating back to the last Ice Age.

Woodside Petroleum is planning an onshore LNG terminal on the Burrup Peninsula.

Senator Campbell said his decision could be delayed until next year to ensure economic development was not impeded by a listing.

But Senator Brown said Senator Campbell should resign as environment minister if he could not protect the Burrup.

"Senator Campbell is the minister for the environment and heritage, not the minister for Woodside Petroleum," he said.

"There are alternative sites for Woodside's gas plant, but no alternative for the rock art."