



**NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA
(WA)**

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL TRUST CALLS FOR WORLD HERITAGE LISTING FOR THE DAMPIER ROCK ART PRECINCT.

'World Heritage sites have the highest visibility of any cultural attraction in the world, and possess a symbolic value which may be disproportionate to their size or beauty. They are symbols of our heritage and are cultural icons whose importance transcends their current political status'.

The National Trust of Australia (WA) is calling for both the Federal and State Governments to nominate the Dampier Rock Art Precinct as Australia's first World Heritage Landscape.

Tom Perrigo, the Trust's CEO recommends such status be given to this threatened World Monument as it clearly represents the 'combined works of nature and of man' as designated in Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention.

The rock art is clearly an illustration of the evolution of human settlement over time and reflects successive social, economic and cultural forces on early Australians.

There is absolutely no question by any heritage expert; this Precinct should be put on the World Heritage List.

The National Trust urges both the State and Federal Government to set aside this current very silly and immature political rhetoric and ensure future generations can experience one of the world's great treasures.

The region was identified as potential World Heritage in *Australia's Wilderness Heritage: World Heritage Areas*, Kevin Weldon, reprinted 1989, 1992. Figgis, Penelope and Mosley, J.G., 1988

The Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage sought comment from the State government on a World Heritage Nomination in March 2003.

He indicated to the State that he would be happy to discuss the opportunity of including the rock engravings of the Burrup in such a World Heritage Nomination.

For further information please contact Tom Perrigo at the National Trust on 08 9321 6088.