

Turnbull asked to save art on Burrup

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Greens Senator Rachel Siewert has called on newly appointed Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull to urgently list the Burrup Peninsula on the National Heritage List to protect what is left of the area's ancient Aboriginal rock art.

Senator Siewert said the new Minister could make his first positive decision one in favour of saving the Burrup.

He could then set up negotiations between petroleum giant Woodside and its joint venturers for approval to develop a nearby site that is already cleared.

Senator Siewert said Mr Turn-

bull's predecessor Ian Campbell had put off making a decision to the detriment of the petroglyphs.

"Unfortunately while listing of the site is being delayed, development is going ahead," she said in a letter to Mr Turnbull.

"Woodside is currently in the process of removing priceless Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula from the Pluto A lease.

"This has caused great dissension amongst the local Aboriginal custodians and outrage in the broader community."

Senator Siewert said she was not opposing the Woodside development, but rather its location.

"There is another already cleared site available just next door to the

current site. I contacted all partners of the North-West Shelf joint venture last year, who all indicated that they were open to development moving to this site and were prepared to negotiate," she said.

A spokeswoman for Mr Turnbull said the new Minister would consider all requests once he was sworn into office next Tuesday.

Construction has started on Woodside Energy's Pluto liquefied natural gas plant on the Burrup Peninsula.

Early this year, site preparation work for LNG storage tanks will include fencing, road access and relocating cultural heritage material.