



Friends of Australian Rock Art take a stand at Subiaco Pavilion last weekend

Push to save rock art

SUBIACO residents were encouraged to “stand up for the Burrup” when a peaceful protest against the removal of Aboriginal rock art to make way for natural gas exploration in the Burrup Peninsula was held at the Pavilion Markets last weekend.

It was part of a series of protests held around the world, including in France, South Africa and the Netherlands.

“We don’t want any more of the rock art disturbed and are also concerned about the potential damage from emissions, if the gas project goes ahead,” Friends of Australian Rock Art spokesman Peter Shannon said.

Mr Shannon, of Nedlands, said the remoteness of the Burrup rock art, believed to be 6000 to 18,000 years old, meant people felt at ease ignoring its loss and allowing the State Government to act on its “great fondness” for industrial development.

He encouraged people to help get the site recognised as a cultural preservation priority, whether by writing to their local Member of Parliament or joining future protests.

Cottesloe MLA Colin Barnett has lobbied to save the rock art and said he approved of attempts to raise public awareness of the issue.

“I’ve spoken out about it and know of a few others who support my view, but everyone has been quiet on it, making this a failing of the political process and one that doesn’t paint Australia in a very good light internationally,” he said.

“I find it most disappointing that while the rock art is on Crown land and probably WA’s most significant man-made heritage site, the State Government is doing nothing to protect it.”

Mr Barnett said Woodside should be stopped until something was done to reconcile the clash of development and conservation goals.