

Media release

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For immediate release

Attention: Chiefs of Staff, news editors, business reporters

Woodside's plans to process Browse gas at the Burrup "unrealistic and short-sighted"

Woodside CEO Don Voelte's announcement that gas from the Browse Basin may be processed on the Burrup has been criticised as "unrealistic and short-sighted."

Robin Chapple, a spokesperson for the Perth-based Friends of Australian Rock Art, said today that there was no room Karratha or Dampier to support further industrial development on the Burrup.

"Karratha workers are living in seatainers" said Mr Chapple "and the local infrastructure is stretched beyond its capacity."

Mr Chapple said that he understood why Mr Voelte had floated the idea of processing Browse Basin gas at the Burrup.

"Kimberley Aboriginal groups have told Woodside they don't want an LNG plant on their traditional lands" said Mr Chapple "so Woodside is looking for a place to process the Browse Basin gas."

"There is a simple answer to Woodside's problems. It should do what Apache and BHP-Billiton has done, and plan to build its Pluto LNG plant another 40 or 100k down the coast, closer to Onslow."

"That would also prevent the senseless destruction of the world's oldest and largest outdoor rock art landscape, at the Burrup" said Mr Chapple.

Mr Chapple called for WA Premier Alan Carpenter step in and show leadership, by developing an integrated LNG industries management plan.

"That would involve no LNG plant or any other further development on the Burrup, which is Australia's largest cultural monument, and a proper balancing of industry's needs with the need to respect and value Aboriginal cultural heritage" said Mr Chapple.

ENDS

For comment, please call Robin Chapple: 0409 379 263