

Heritage listing not enough for rock art protectors

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ADVOCATES for Pilbara rock art have called on industry to abandon plans for a new development on the engraving-strewn Burrup Peninsula, which has been included in the National Heritage List.

Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull made a long-awaited announcement yesterday that the prehistoric rock engravings across Western Australia's Dampier Archipelago, which includes the Burrup Peninsula, would be placed on the



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tion or removed to safe locations by resource companies com-

mitted to respecting the high heritage value of their leases.

"The decision shows that the archipelago's significant heritage can co-exist alongside one of our most resource-rich industrial areas," Mr Turnbull said.

Friends of Australian Rock Art, which has run an international campaign to stop hundreds of Burrup engravings being removed from Woodside's new \$5 billion Pluto LNG plant site, said heritage listing reinforced the need to stop further industrial disruption on unprotected Burrup sites.

They contained ancient carved images of animals, humans and even the Tasmanian tiger.

While welcoming heritage listing, FARA spokesman Robin Chapple called on the state Government and Woodside to halt further expansion plans on the Burrup:

"Woodside can easily locate its plant near Onslow, where

BHP and Apache plan to build their plants," Mr Chapple said. "But the rock art, which contains perhaps more than 30,000 years of history in one place, cannot be relocated. It is irreplaceable."

He said West Australian heritage laws offered no protection as the state Government had approved all applications by companies since 2001.

A Woodside spokesman said the company supported the decision to place the Burrup Peninsula on the National Heritage List. He said it offered proper recognition of the area's cultural heritage, while recognising that industry and heritage could co-exist. "Woodside supports the protection of rock art on the Burrup Peninsula, both within and outside its leases," he said.

Minister for State Development Eric Ripper said the state Government remained committed to making the region's heritage a priority while facilitating the industry of the region.