

Rock art protestors target Gray

ABORIGINAL rock art campaigners brought their campaign to Rockingham with a brief protest at the Spring Festival on Saturday.

Friends of Australian Rock Art protestors highlighted what they said were ongoing threats by Woodside Energy to the world's oldest and biggest outdoor rock art gallery on the Burrup Peninsula, 1500km north of Perth.

They also questioned the legality of the approval processes that allowed Woodside to clear rock art to make way for its \$11billion gas plant.

Brand Labor candidate Gary Gray was targeted by the protestors because he was Woodside's corporate affairs director before he resigned in January to concentrate on his political quest.

Friends of Australian Rock Art spokesperson Stephen Bennetts said Mr Gray's former employer was wantonly destroying some of the oldest art in the world.

"As a Woodside executive lobbying the Federal Government, Gary Gray was an integral part of the machine destroying this world

heritage and Aboriginal sacred site," Mr Bennetts said.

However, Mr Gray denied any wrongdoing on his former employer's part.

"Rock art has been well and truly protected by the Burrup Peninsula being put on the National Heritage List. The developers are also ensuring that emissions to the air and ground are properly monitored, and that real science is done to track the impact of industrial activity to ensure that the rock art is not damaged," Mr Gray said.