

# Heritage sites 'at risk of chemical explosions'

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**HERITAGE sites in regional WA are under threat from possible chemical explosions like the recent Varanus gas fire, says Friends of Australian Rock Art.**

"The incident on Varanus Island must be a wake up call for the State Government", FARA co-convenor Robin Chapple said

"If this had happened on the Burrup we would have lost thousands of carvings as they became dislodged by the event."

The Burrup Peninsula, in the state's North West, contains the world's largest outdoor rock engraving site.

The rocks, possibly date back 30,000 years, are an Aboriginal sacred site.

Ms Chapple said Apache and BHP had done the right thing and taken their petrochemical plants to other locations in the Pilbara.

It is only the State Government that is still pursuing the destruction of the Burrup national heritage site, she said.

Further developments earmarked for the Burrup include the expansion of the Woodside Pluto project which has already relocated 250 carvings.

Yara and Burrup Holdings JV plan to build a 350,000 ton p.a. technical ammonium nitrate (TAN), explosives plant and Methanex who have decided to move their megamethanol plant from Darwin back to the Burrup.

"If any one or combination of the current or planned plants suffers this form of major event, then we will effectively wipe of the earliest example of human kinds artistic endeavour," Ms Chapple said.