



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

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**Media Release**

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### **Environs Kimberley and FARA reject Browse to Burrup**

Environs Kimberley and Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) are calling on Woodside and its joint venture partners, including Shell, to explore alternative industrial sites to the Kimberley and the Burrup to process LNG from the Browse Basin.

There are viable alternatives to the Kimberley and the Burrup such as floating facilities of the sort that Shell is currently developing as well as sites in the Pilbara like the Port Hedland Industrial Estate which already has development approval.

“Environs Kimberley is vehemently opposed to the industrialization of the Kimberley and further destruction of rock art on the Burrup. We are calling on Woodside and its joint venture partners, including Shell, to look at alternative sites, especially the floating option.” said spokespersons Robin Chapple (FARA) and Martin Pritchard (Director, Environs Kimberley) in a joint statement issued today.

The Premier has described the Burrup as ‘World Heritage’<sup>1</sup> and the the Federal Government is currently assessing the heritage values of the Kimberley, including the area of James Price Point, with a view to eventual World Heritage Listing.

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<sup>1</sup> Colin Barnett Premier: Hansard Thursday, 9 March 2006 :

*Finally, there is the issue of international recognition. The National Trust of Australia has nominated this site for listing on the National Heritage List. I understand claimant Aboriginal groups may have done the same. The federal government has made some sort of assessment of the site. I have no doubt that the Burrup Peninsula will ultimately receive National Heritage listing and probably World Heritage listing. However, in both cases, in my view at least, it is premature and should occur only after the state has properly accepted and performed its responsibility by surveying the site and solving the apparent conflict between industry and the preservation of this rock art.*

*“And this - this [referring to the Burrup] is not just Aboriginal heritage, this is Australia's heritage, it's world heritage” Channel 9, 60 Minutes "Sacred Stones" June 25, 2006*

“The Kimberley coast is Western Australia’s equivalent of the Great Barrier Reef, why would you put in a 3,000 hectare industrial site in a spectacular place that is being looked at for World Heritage Listing? It doesn’t make sense.” Mr. Pritchard said.

“A massive industrial site in a proposed World Heritage area like the Kimberley seems preposterous and the proposition that the already National Heritage listed and proposed World Heritage Dampier Archipelago is now being considered as an alternative is crass stupidity” said Mr Chapple.

“Woodside and their joint venture partners need to act as responsible corporate citizens and look at viable alternatives, they need to decide if profit is more important to them than priceless World Heritage. They are risking destroying a unique place like the Kimberley that the rest of the world doesn’t even know about yet” said Mr Pritchard.

“LNG industries such as Chevron’s Wheatstone project, BHP Billiton’s Scarborough proposal and Apache Energy’s Reindeer project have all sought to locate away from the Dampier Archipelago, so why is Woodside considering going back, don’t they have any moral values or community responsibility”, said Mr Chapple.

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