

Shocking call on ancient rock art

SHEILA McHale should resign as WA Minister for Indigenous Affairs and become the minister for mining interests after her appalling decision to give Woodside approval to destroy or move ancient rock art on the Burrup Peninsula.

The Burrup site is the most extensive ancient civilisation site in Australia, with 100 sites containing over 300,000 carvings up to 25,000 years old, and is listed in the United Nations World Monument Fund, along with the Egyptian pyramids.

The money-blinding ignorance of the State Government to the cultural and spiritual significance of Burrup for the indigenous people, and for the heritage of all Australians, is a national disgrace.

Former Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone said indigenous art was "Australia's greatest cultural gift to the world", and yet Burrup is not just art; it is an ancient sacred spiritual site.

It is about time Australia's politicians woke up to the importance of this invaluable national treasure.

***Joy van den Haak,
Beaconsfield.***