

## Woodside drops opposition to heritage listing of rock art

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Woodside has reversed its opposition to the national heritage listing of ancient Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula, but wants an area excised from the proposal to accommodate plans for its multi-billion-dollar Pluto gas project.

The National Trust said the backflip was a sign of "absolute panic" and had left the State Government out in the cold over its continued opposition to heritage listing. Alan Carpenter would not comment yesterday, but it is understood the State Government is planning an announcement today.

The Australian Heritage Council has recommended 874sqkm of the North-West, including 100sqkm of the Burrup, be heritage listed. The State Government has warned that listing would have a devastating impact on North-West industry, and Woodside had said it would fight the proposal.

But Woodside director Keith Spence said yesterday the company had changed its position after being influenced by public opinion and planned changes to heritage laws.

Woodside wants 6.8sqkm excluded to create a gas precinct including the planned site for Pluto.

AMANDA BANKS

