



Lawrence urges protection of rock art area

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The former Western Australian premier, Carmen Lawrence, says new developments on the Burrup Peninsula could hinder any move to have the area world heritage listed.

Woodside will soon start removing rock art from a site on the Peninsula where a gas plant is planned, after the Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell, granted environmental approval for the project.

Senator Campbell also rejected an application for emergency heritage listing of the site.

The National Trust says it will now apply to have the area world heritage listed.

Dr Lawrence was one of those behind the application for emergency listing and says the integrity of the site as whole needs to be protected to qualify for world heritage listing.

"It won't be given world heritage listing if bits of it are carved out," Dr Lawrence said.

"If LNG plants are stuck in the middle of it and other industry is allowed without any proper regard for the alternatives that clearly exist for the major multi-nationals."

She says the problem with new developments is that they detract from the overall integrity of the entire Peninsula as a heritage area.

"Every time another industry is placed in the Burrup, in this area in the Dampier Peninsula, without regard to its heritage value - it is a whole site it's not a series of little bits - then that makes it less likely one, that it will be preserved in perpetuity as a site and secondly that it will ever be given the international recognition that it deserves."