

Getting a grilling

WHILE I agree with Chris Mayhew (*Thinking Allowed 31/03/07*) about the wanton destruction of rock engraving on the Burrup, I think he spoils a useful contribution by confusing the breathtaking vandalism of "the Carpenter Government decision to destroy the Burrup artefacts" with "corruption".

His pejorative question 'Were Burke and Grill involved?' in persuading the relevant minister (to allow part of the artwork to be destroyed) is not only highly prejudicial but plain wrong.

Julian Grill has always been strongly opposed to the destruction of the Burrup engravings and I know if he was minister it just wouldn't happen!

The Maitland Industrial Estate was proposed at Karratha when he was Minister for Industrial Development to create an alternative and take the pressure off the Burrup heritage sites.

Mr Grill has been heavily involved in the WA National Trust campaign to save the Burrup rock engravings. As a Trust board member he has been highly active and doesn't hide his view from Woodside or anyone else. I've been a trust member for 30 years and together we have had many heritage wins.

Perhaps it is difficult for Chris Mayhew to understand people who don't fit the mould of those who support every protest movement. Like Julian, many of us attach great importance to

built heritage as well as natural heritage without demonstrating in the streets. I can remember when the Burke government started the clean-up of the Coogee industrial eyesore. Julian Grill was one of the two lead ministers on this project.

Julian Grill has contributed much to Fremantle. He re-instituted the Perth to Fremantle rail line. As minister he sent back plans for Marine House in Fremantle because he thought the proposal was gaudy and out of character. The subsequent change was dramatic and created one of the best new public buildings in Fremantle.

He put in place the team, headed by Professor Peter Newman and (architect) Ralph Hoare that took charge of the alterations of Fremantle for the America's Cup. The subsequent Challenger Boat Harbour and redevelopment of the Fishing Boat Harbour are monuments to sensitivity for Fremantle's heritage.

I'm sure others in the Eastern Goldfields and Fremantle could vouch for Mr Grill's assistance in saving heritage treasures. The old Royal George Hotel in East Fremantle is an example.

It may be fashionable to knock Julian Grill at the current time, but I have worked closely with him and his concern for heritage is sincere and active.

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Editor says: Mark Nevill is a former Labor MLC