

Tassie tigers on Pilbara rock art

AN archaeologist has found new depictions of Tasmanian tigers roaming the Pilbara on rock art on the Burrup Peninsula.

Ken Mulvaney made the new discoveries while wandering through the region over the past two years.

“My observations have probably doubled the number of thylacines (Tasmanian tigers) on the Burrup,” he said.

It is believed Tasmanian tigers roamed mainland Australia until 3000 years ago. In the 1970s, the first panel of rock art depicting the tigers was recorded on the Burrup.

More carvings were discovered in the 1980s, during the Woodside LNG survey.

Mr Mulvaney has discovered 12 new carvings, some as recently as last month.

The discovery comes as new efforts are made to include the Dampier Rock Art Precinct on the National Heritage list.

Experts say the art is under threat from industry on the Burrup – with estimates as many as 9000 pieces of art have already been destroyed.

Federal Heritage Minister Ian Campbell is due to make a decision on the precinct’s heritage listing in September.

Claire Nichols