

GOVERNMENT MEDIA MONITORING UNIT

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STATION: ABC REGIONAL NEWS

SUBJECT: HICKS/MCHALE – BURRUP ROCK ART.

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NEWSREADER

An Aboriginal elder says the State Government's plans to allow development in an area which contains rock art will destroy a part of his people's cultural heritage. Steve Holland has this report.

REPORTER

The draft management plan released by the Environment Minister Mark McGowan earlier this week will protect 60% of the Burrup Peninsula from resource development. But an elder of the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo West Nalarma* people, Wilfred Hicks, says he'll fight to the end to protect all of the rock art.

WILFRED HICKS

It breaks our heart to see all the destroyed art, rocks and that... getting dug... ripped up all the time and blown. It is a heart breaking(sic) feeling. It makes us... older generation cry about what they're seeing and happened.

REPORTER

Greens leader Bob Brown says he will lobby the Federal Government to block the State Government's proposal. Steve Holland, Karratha.

NEWSREADER

The State Indigenous Affairs Minister Sheila McHale is staying tight-lipped on the issue.

SHEILA MCHALE

And in making my ultimate decision I will clearly be taking all aspects into account, and... recognising the... depth of feeling of the indigenous elders. ENDS...JT