

# Rock art no bar to LNG

**Angus Grigg and Andrew Burrell**

Environment Minister Ian Campbell conceded yesterday that some Aboriginal rock art would be destroyed by a \$5 billion liquefied natural gas plant in Western Australia's Burrup Peninsula, but said he would not allow a heritage listing to derail the development.

Senator Campbell was in favour of Woodside Petroleum's proposed plant and said it could easily co-exist with the ancient rock art.

"No one in their right mind would propose saving every single last bit of heritage on the peninsula unless they wanted to close down the economic development of Australia," he said.

West Australian National Trust chief executive Tom Perrigo said some of the thousands of pieces of Aboriginal rock art would be destroyed if Woodside's plant went ahead on its proposed site.

Woodside said about 90 per cent of the rock art would not be disturbed by the plant's construction.

Mr Perrigo called for the site to be heritage listed to prevent the engravings from being either "blown up" during construction or later damaged due to industrial emissions from the plant.

Mr Perrigo blamed the state and federal governments, rather than Woodside, for the possible loss of the artworks.

The West Australian government is opposed to any blanket heritage listing of the area. This is despite Resources Minister John Bowler saying recently that no future expansion of industry on the peninsula would affect the rock art.