

Heritage move on Burrup rock art

THE Federal Environment Minister received documents recommending the heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula on Monday threatening to delay a number of resource projects planned for the site.

North West Coastal MLA Fred Riebeling said Senator Ian Campbell would be interfering in the development of WA's resources.

"We do not want another layer of bureaucracy," Mr Riebeling said.

He said a number of multi-billion dollar projects proposed for the Burrup would likely be forced to look for another home at Onslow, requiring the State Government to spend up to \$400 million on infrastructure.

That move could take two years and potentially stop the WA economy in its tracks.

National Trust of Western Australia spokesman Robin Chapple said the site met all the criteria for World Heritage listing.

He explained how the Minister had 20 days from Monday to make his decision or defer for 112 days to gather more public submissions.

"We obviously need some form of protection from the State or Federal Governments," Mr Chapple said. "Already we've lost 10,000 carvings to the bulldozer and dynamite."

He said letting anymore be destroyed was not an option because no one knew for sure the value of the rock art.

"The rock art is seven times as old as the pyramids and Stonehenge," Mr Chapple said.