

Trust wonders if rock art Mona Lisa threatened

The National Trust has criticised Western Australia's Department of Indigenous Affairs' approval of plans to build another gas processing station on the Burrup Peninsula, in north-west WA.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Sheila McHale announced on Friday the department had approved part of Woodside Energy's \$5 billion Pluto project.

Although the energy giant must adhere to a number of conditions to reduce impact on historic rock art, the National Trust says an unknown quantity of rock art will be destroyed.

Robin Chapple from the National Trust says he is concerned he is not able to view the studies on which the Minister for Indigenous Affairs based her decision.

"Currently our process of dealing with rock art on the Burrup is that we can destroy any amount we like because there's lots more," he said.

"Unfortunately, in this instance we don't know if the Mona Lisa is amongst those parts we are seeking to destroy."

"So whilst she is saying that we might only lose X per cent of site A we might lose 90 per cent of Site B, so it is totally inappropriate for her to make a decision at this time on a small component or an isolated part of the project."