

Bugging up the Burrup

SHEILA McHALE should resign as WA minister for indigenous affairs and become minister for mining interests after her appalling decision to give Woodside approval to destroy or move ancient rock art on the Burrup Peninsula.

The Burrup site is the most extensive ancient civilisation site in Australia with 100 sites containing over 300,000 carvings up to 25,000-years-old, and is listed in the United Nations World Monument Fund along with the Egyptian pyramids.

The money-blinding ignorance of the WA government to the cultural and spiritual significance of Burrup for the local Indigenous people and for the heritage of all Australians, is a national disgrace.

Former federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Amanda Vanstone said "Indigenous art was Australia's greatest cultural gift to the world" and yet Burrup is not just art, it is an ancient sacred spiritual site.

Just because politicians find it more difficult to understand the importance of this ancestral spiritual site to West Australia's Aboriginal people, they should be able to comprehend that a national treasure such as the Burrup Peninsula should be left

for all time. The pyramids of Egypt would never be treated with such appalling and spiritually bankrupt values because of ignorant politicians or economic mining interests.

It is about time that Australia's politicians woke up to the importance of this invaluable national treasure and protected the Burrup Peninsula for eternity.

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