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Lawrence criticises Burrup gas plant plan

The former West Australian premier, Carmen Lawrence, has spoken out against a plan by Woodside to build a liquified natural gas plant on the Burrup Peninsula.

The federal Member for Fremantle says the company should look at alternative options to the valuable rock art site.

There is uncertainty over Woodside's Pluto gas project, as the Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell considers whether to grant heritage listing over the entire peninsula.

Dr Lawrence says it is a priceless site and should be protected.

"When you're in the middle of a recession or a depression, it's difficult to properly protect heritage because the money isn't there," she said.

"We can't say that at the moment and there are alternatives particularly for Woodside in locating their Pluto plant.

"I don't think we're left with no option but to destroy the rock art."