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It has been recommended the entire peninsula be heritage listed (file photo).
(ABC)

Woodside drops opposition to heritage listing of rock art

Woodside Petroleum has reversed its opposition to the heritage listing of rock art on the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia.

The company wants approval to develop a multi-million dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing plant on the Burrup, but the Heritage Council has recommended that the entire peninsula be heritage listed.

Now Woodside, in return for reversing its opposition to the heritage listing, wants a 6.8 square kilometre area set aside from the proposal to create a gas precinct.

Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell is considering both positions.

Greens spokeswoman Rachel Siewert is concerned that Senator Campbell will put the economic benefits of the gas production ahead of the environment.

"We're all extremely worried that he's going to list the area, except the bits that Woodside want to develop on," she said.

The Western Australian Government will announce its position on the issue in the next day or so.

Ms Siewert welcomes the company's decision, but remains wary of its motives.

"I'm pleased that they have changed their mind over this and recognised the very high values of the rock art on the Burrup," she said.

"I think that the Burrup needs to be listed in its entirety - all the area has exceptional heritage value and I think it's a bit disingenuous for Woodside to say everything else has value - you should list that, but leave our bit."