

Woodside responds

THE *Thinking Allowed 'Going from deceit and disloyalty to destruction'* (by Chris Mayhew of Beaconsfield, *Herald* 31/3/07) contained inaccuracies.

No rock art has been damaged or destroyed by Woodside's Pluto LNG development and we do not intend to damage or destroy any rock art.

Our company's Pluto development is located within the small area of the Burrup set aside for industrial development. It will occupy about one per cent of the Burrup Peninsula.

The Burrup Peninsula and surrounding islands are estimated to contain one million rock art engravings.

Woodside recognises that the Burrup and surrounding Dampier Archipelago contain significant heritage values that provide an insight into Aboriginal and early Australian history. We have operated gas facilities on the Burrup Peninsula for over 25 years, and understand its cultural and historical significance to local Aboriginal people and the wider community. We support national heritage listing as a means of recognising the importance of the area.

While Woodside has identified about 3000 engravings on our Pluto leases, 95 per cent of these will remain completely untouched. We have worked closely with traditional Aborigi-

nal custodians, archaeologists and anthropologists to design the facilities to avoid rock art and other heritage sites.

A small number of engravings which lie within our footprint are being relocated. Traditional Aboriginal custodians monitor this work, which has so far resulted in a 100 per cent success rate. No rock art has been damaged or destroyed.

Woodside will continue to support relevant research and other activities that contribute to best practice heritage management.

**Warren Fish
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