

Phantom player stalking Burrup

By Ben Cranston

A PHANTOM investor is in secret talks with the WA Government to develop a site on the Burrup Peninsula as explosives manufacturer Dyno Nobel flags its own intentions to move into the North West.

Parliamentary Secretary Kate Doust, representing WA Development Minister Eric Ripper, has confirmed two companies are looking at the North West resources hub.

She said only proposals for land under the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement were considered.

"An agreement to which all local indigenous groups are signatories," she said.

"Currently, two companies are in contact with the (WA) Government. One is Dyno Nobel Ltd. Due to the early nature of discussions and the issue of commercial confidentiality, the other company cannot yet be named."

A Dyno Nobel spokesperson said its plans regarding the Burrup Peninsula were at a preliminary stage.

"These plans are part of our ongoing involvement in reviewing a number of long-term opportunities throughout the region on the back of the current resources boom," he said.

The Sydney-based explosives manufacturer had in the past been party to a proposal by Melbourne-based petrochemical firm Plenex Ltd to build a multi-million dollar ammonium plant on the Burrup.

Dyno Nobel had continued to look at the feasibility of the plant after Plenex pulled out citing high construction costs and gas prices.

Friends of Rock Art convenor Robin Chapple was in the Pilbara last week surveying rock art at the site he believes Dyno Nobel will build if its plans move forward.

He said a site beside Burrup Fertilisers was the likely location for Dyno Nobel's possible move into the North West.

The site was home to a significant collection of indigenous rock carvings.