

Carpenter launches Pluto construction

By Tristan Lavalette

PREMIER Alan Carpenter was in town last week to officially launch construction of the \$12 billion Pluto LNG project ahead of the Federal election.

Mr Carpenter, along with Woodside chief executive Don Voelte and representatives from Pluto's customers and project participants Tokyo Gas and Kansai Electric, toured the Burrup Peninsula construction site and unveiled a plaque to recognise the official start of the project.

However, there has been continued controversy over the construction of the gas processing plant on the peninsula, which contains thousands of ancient irreplaceable Aboriginal rock art.

Woodside has relocated about 150 inscribed rocks but Mr Voelte revealed they had not been damaged and were well

preserved.

"Rock art is the most important thing. These rocks are the most valuable rocks in the world," Mr Voelte said.

"We will make sure over the years to come we provide the research to understand more about the indigenous cultures in this area.

"It's basically the State Government and the Commonwealth Government working with us to make sure that we build this in a pristine, environmentally-friendly way."

Mr Carpenter said Woodside was "showing what can be done" with their development on the Burrup.

"This is a very, very good development - manages industrial and environmental issues while being highly sensitive to the region," he said.

Mr Voelte believed Woodside could cooperate effectively with a Rudd Government but admitted there would be changes - particularly to AWAs.

"Government to Government there'll be changes, clearly. I've talked to Kevin (Rudd) and Julia (Gillard) and they've instructed us what those changes might be," Mr Voelte said.

"They say the transition plans will be in place."

"I think AWAs...we're going to have to learn a little bit about how to transition them to maybe a different form of individual contracts or different form."

Pluto is expected to be producing LNG by 2010 and the initial phase will include a single liquefied natural gas production train with a forecast production of 4.3m tonnes per annum.



Premier Alan Carpenter and Woodside chief executive Don Voelte launching the new Pluto LNG Project.