

Garrett digs in on protecting Burrup's ancient art

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Peter Garrett has taken a tough stand on protecting Aboriginal rock art threatened by the mining boom in WA, refusing to give the State Government total control of development on the Burrup Peninsula.

The rock art of the Burrup, regarded as one of the world's most endangered heritage sites, has been decimated by mining companies since the 1960s. Engravings of humans and animals dating back 30,000 years have been blown up, bulldozed or moved.

"There's no doubt that if

everybody had an opportunity to go back 15 to 20 or 30 years and start again (in the Burrup), then there would have been some pretty serious thinking about the best way to ensure that these cultural matters were given real consideration." Mr Garrett said of the engravings.