

Time for action

THE time for action to protect the Burrup rock art has come and gone – and shouldn't be delayed any longer.

Talk of bilateral discussions on the matter between the State and Federal Labor governments are just that – talk.

No longer does either have the excuse of trying to negotiate with a government of another party in order to get action – and action is what is needed now.

In the last week of April yet again more vandalism was discovered on the most significant rock art in both Australia's and the world's history.

Sadly, it could have happened at any time of the two preceding months – such is the laxity of the patrolling of the area.

It will cost money to fence off significant areas and to require a permit system in order to visit them, but there appears to be no other choice.

Some yobbos appear to find some sort of amusement in drawing stick figures and in general scratching and defacing these art works – estimated to be in the order of 20,000 years old.

There are significant penalties for defacing National Heritage-listed areas, but that does nothing when the art is so scattered and the perpetrators aren't caught.

In almost any other country in the world such significant works would be treated as preciously as the *Mona Lisa* hanging in a gallery.

Action is needed now.