

'No risk' to petroglyphs

By MARGARET BERTLING

BURRUP Nitrates has hit back at Friends of Australian Rock Art co-convenor and Greens member Robin Chapple's suggestion the proposed plant on the Burrup Peninsula would put petroglyphs in the area at risk.

Mr Chapple said there was a risk from added pollutants and potential seismic activity.

The plant, a US\$600 million development by joint owners Burrup Holdings Ltd of Australia and Yara International ASA of Norway, is set to replace about US\$225 in imports of the explosives compound technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) to local industry and have a significant savings in transport costs to Pilbara mining companies.

TAN is the main raw material for porous ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO), which is the most widely used civil explosive on the market.

Burrup Fertilisers director and company secretary Wolfgang Jovanovic said the plant's design included the most up-to-date processes and technology, including environmental impact and safety.

"We are designing a whole new plant, so we are looking at the best available technology in order to ensure that we minimise any emissions," he said.

Mr Jovanovic said waste would be processed in on-site water treatment facilities then discharged through the water corporation's current facility.

"There are obvious limits already established in order to address those levels and we will have no problems in designing the plant to meet or exceed those levels," he said.

Mr Jovanovic said Mr Chapple's fears of the plant's impact on local rock art were unfounded, and no areas would be disturbed.

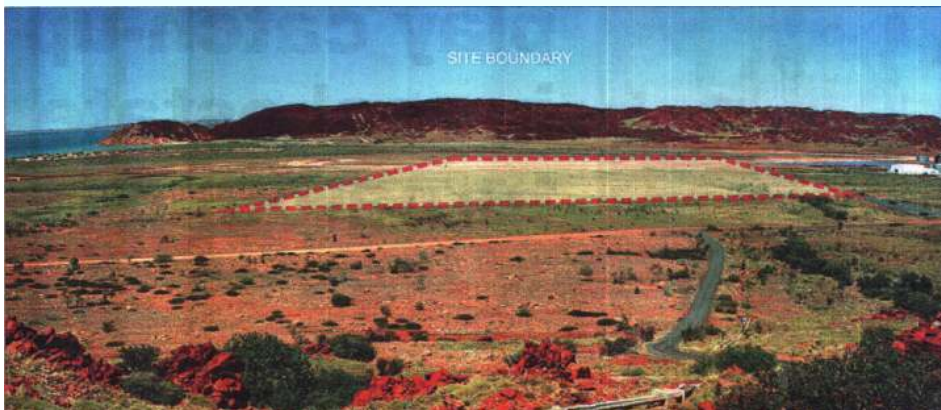
"There's none (petroglyphs) on that proposed site which was confirmed through the very rigorous World Heritage Listing that occurred," he said.

Mr Jovanovic said the company's proposal had been subject to a rigorous approvals process on many levels.

"We welcome legitimate project assessment because we know that this plant will come up as a safe and efficient plant," he said.

Mr Jovanovic said the TAN plant was a natural progression for the existing ammonia plant adjacent to the proposed site and would be an economic positive for Karratha.

"We are not going to be putting our people or the town of Karratha or Dampier at risk," he said.



The site proposed for the Technical Ammonium Nitrate (TAN) plant adjacent to the existing Burrup Fertiliser Plant at Hearson's Cove.