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Campbell to decide Burrup heritage listing. 04/09/2006. ABC News Online

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Documents recommending the heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia's north-west will be submitted to the federal Environment Minister today, amid claims the move would be a disaster for Australia's economy.

Indigenous claimants, the International Rock Art Federation and the National Trust nominated the site for inclusion earlier this year.

They say the ancient rock art on the peninsula, which is in the Pilbara, is of great cultural significance.

The area also plays a crucial role in Western Australia's booming resources industry.

The Member for North West Coastal, Fred Riebeling, fears heritage listing would be disastrous for the country's economy.

"If the Commonwealth make a decision to list the Burrup, as I fear, on the national heritage, what it does is impose a new level of bureaucracy which doesn't currently exist in Western Australia, onto the most valuable industrial land in Australia," he said.

But Robin Chapple, from the National Trust of Western Australia, says industry in the region will continue even if the federal Environment Minister, Senator Ian Campbell, rules in favour of heritage listing.

"Quite clearly we've got major corporations going to locations other than the Burrup," he said.

"The only people who most probably would suffer some sort of disadvantage would be the State Government who have invested heavily in an industrial complex which doesn't seem to be getting the go ahead."

Senator Campbell has 20 days to decide whether the Burrup Peninsula should be listed, or he can seek further public comment.