

Fed: Greens worried cabinet will allow destruction of rock art  
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Burrup

CANBERRA, Sept 4 AAP - The federal government must protect all of the rock art of Ice Age people on Western Australia's Burrup Peninsula, not only part of it, the Australian Greens say.

News Ltd today reported federal cabinet was considering working with the West Australian government on a new development strategy for the peninsula, which sits in the heart of the vast north-west shelf gas industry.

The site includes hundreds of thousands of petroglyphs - artworks carved into boulders - dating back to the last Ice Age.

WA Greens senator Rachel Siewert said the whole Burrup rock art province should be added to the National Heritage List - a process which rests with Heritage Minister Ian Campbell.

"How dare he even consider not adding this area to the National Heritage List? It meets every one of the criteria for listing," Senator Siewert said in a statement.

"It is clearly one of the most important cultural heritage sites on the planet, and it belongs on the National Heritage List."

Senator Siewert said Australia appeared to be in the farcical situation where industry is determining what is heritage.

"The Australian Heritage Council was due to provide its recommendations to Senator Campbell today," she said.

"But without waiting to see this report, the minister is reported to be proposing a watered down listing which will do nothing to protect the thousands of ancient rock carvings which are at risk.

"Senator Campbell has a golden opportunity to make up for 30 years of state government neglect and protect this extraordinary place."

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