

Burrup rock art to be 'moved'

**By Regina Titelius, Chris Johnson
and Ben Cranston**

We can't afford to stuff this up, Premier says

WOODSIDE Petroleum's \$5 billion Pilbara Pluto gas project moved two steps closer yesterday when the Environment Protection Authority approved moving ancient Aboriginal rock art and Federal Environment and Heritage Minister Ian Campbell said he would not allow National Heritage listing to constrain the project.

Alan Carpenter said he would welcome a joint approach from the Federal Government over Burrup Peninsula heritage.

"We can't afford to stuff this up," the Premier said.

"The Commonwealth Government has got to stare reality in the face here. We are talking about the potential of inflicting massive damage on the Australian economy."

Mr Carpenter said the Burrup's

heritage values could be protected and the resource industry could also flourish.

EPA chairman Wally Cox said Woodside had acted responsibly by modifying its environment protection plan.

Senator Campbell said heritage values could be preserved without risking the project. About 35 rock art sites that are 20,000 years old will be affected by clearing and construction.

"I am confident that the National Heritage process can proceed, but in a way that the State Government and other economic stakeholders can continue with this important development," Senator Campbell said.

North West Coastal MLA Fred Riebeling was delighted the Environment Protection Authority would allow the project to move forward.

He said the stamp of approval would benefit all Australians.

"The fact of the matter is that some rock art will be destroyed," Mr Riebeling said.