

# Rock art threat approved

**INDIGENOUS** Affairs Minister Sheila McHale has added another stamp of approval to Woodside's plan to install a major gas plant on the Burrup Peninsula.

The announcement last Friday came in the same week as a report from National Trust was released strengthening the case for the area to be entirely protected.

Ms McHale said the industrial decision could proceed, providing Woodside

re-routed a transportation pipe and access road away from the rock art and ceremonial sites.

She said development conditions meant Woodside was unable to use two thirds of a square kilometre in the southern area south of Site A, protecting 225 individual engraved motifs.

Ms McHale said conditions recommended by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee meant Woodside would need to provide suitable

facilities for storage of materials and work with Aboriginal people to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

"Aboriginal people feel very strongly that parts of the proposed development area are of such cultural significance that they should not be disturbed," Ms McHale said.

But National Trust WA chairman Robin Chapple said there was no catalogue of the rock art so the State

Government did not know what it could potentially be destroying.

Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo West Ngarluma elder Wilfred Hicks told ABC Radio the rock art was how Aboriginal people recorded their history.

"It is a bible that has been given to us and it's lying on the Burrup, and these people are destroying it on us," she said.



**Indigenous Affairs Minister Sheila McHale has moved Woodside's gas plant a step closer as rock art on the Burrup Peninsula draws international attention.**