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Woodside Burrup plans concern Indigenous groups. 09/10/2006. ABC News Online

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Woodside Burrup plans concern Indigenous groups

Indigenous and environmental groups are concerned Woodside Energy is continuing with development on a site being considered for heritage listing in north-west Western Australia.

The Burrup Peninsula is currently being reviewed for national heritage listing and the site of Woodside's \$5 billion Pluto project has been identified by the Australian Heritage Council as an area of cultural significance.

The federal Environment Minister is yet to decide whether the Burrup Peninsula will be on the national heritage list, but Indigenous groups say Woodside is continuing with preparatory work at the site.

Wilfred Hicks, an elder of the Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo people, says at a recent meeting hosted by the Champions of Burrup Rock Art, Indigenous and environmental groups agreed that Woodside should not be developing until the decision is reached.

"We can see that Woodside is still pushing ahead. I quite understand that they've [got a] commitment to contracts and this is the push," he said.

"We know that we can't stop a development that's there already, but the new development should be stopped and put elsewhere. They can develop from Cape Preston all the way back to the Maitland."

Woodside Energy is currently seeking approval for the project under state and federal legislation and declined to comment.