

Rock art risk report 'out of date'

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A CSIRO report commissioned by the State Government has shown that air quality on the Burrup peninsular is no worse than a typical Perth suburb and is having no effect on ancient Aboriginal rock art in the region.

But the report does not include testing on the air quality on the peninsular since Burrup Fertilizers, which will produce 760,000 tonnes of liquid ammonia per year for the next 25 years, began operating earlier this year.

In Parliament in September, the Government confirmed that there had been eight incidents reported to the Department of Environment and Conservation associated with the Burrup Fertilisers plant, including pipe bursts and gas releases.

Since July 2005 there has been no air monitoring on the Burrup, due to cost, but Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Committee chair Professor Frank Murray said he had now received confirmation that more funds were being made available.

But National Trust chief executive Tom Perrigo said the data in the report was one year old and was old news. "This report is a benchmark and tells us nothing," he said.

Resources Minister John Bowler said: "There have been claims . . . that 20 per cent of the rock art is being destroyed and 80 per cent left is being destroyed by acid rain," he said.

"We have just disproved one of those, there is no acid rain."