

# Letters

## Art in danger

After cynically calling for the Burrup Peninsula to be heritage listed earlier in the week — while still reserving the right to trash 165 rock engravings in its Pluto Site A lease — Woodside is now hoping to slip under the radar of public scrutiny by commencing destruction of the area's world heritage rock art early next week.

Several heritage-friendly resource companies have already walked away from the Pluto area, but not Woodside. It is well known that the Woodside project could go ahead in at least two already disturbed areas (the Burrup's existing joint venture site or at the Maitland industrial estate). Five of Woodside's own joint venture partners have already signed letters encouraging such collaboration.

Despite opposition to the Pluto project by all local Aboriginal groups, WA Minister for Heritage Sheila McHale is continuing her well-established pattern of overruling the advice of her own Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee. It is surely time WA taxpayers were spared any further expense in maintaining this body. Given that the minister never listens to its advice, it surely serves no further useful purpose.

WA's Department of Industry and Resources is a government bureaucracy completely out of control. Its fanatical dedication to development at any cost risks causing immeasurable damage to WA's unique cultural heritage, as well as its reputation in the eyes of the world.

It is time the WA Premier took back control of his own bureaucracy.

**Stephen Bennetts, East Fremantle.**