

Stirling Range put on heritage list

CANBERRA

Five of Australia's major national parks have been added to the National Heritage List, but the Greens want WA's Burrup Peninsula rock art site added as well.

Environment and Heritage Minister Ian Campbell yesterday added to the list WA's Stirling Range, Sydney's Royal National Park and the adjoining Garawarra State Conservation Area, the Warumbungles in northern NSW, Ku-ring-gai, in Sydney's north, and the Grampians (Gariwerd) in western Victoria.

They join historic structures and sites such as the Sydney Opera House, the Australian War Memorial, the Eureka Stockade and Captain Cook's landing site on the heritage list, which provides them with extra layers of protection.

Senator Campbell said the new

parks on the list showcased some of Australia's most beautiful and diverse natural heritage.

But WA Greens Senator Rachel Siewert asked why the Burrup site could not be placed on the heritage list.

The site contains hundreds of thousands of figures, believed to be thousands of years old, inscribed into rocks. It is under pressure from the North-West Shelf gas projects and an onshore facility which would destroy some of the works.

"The National Heritage values of the Burrup rock art province are indisputable," Senator Siewert said in a statement. "These values are at risk because of industrial expansion, but instead of protecting this site, the Minister has procrastinated for several months while adding these five non-controversial sites to the list."

She said she was pleased to see

the addition of the new national parks. "But this Minister has shown consistent form in avoiding the hard decisions on heritage. He now has the decision ahead of him over the Burrup," she said.

"Next week, he will decide on our emergency listing nomination. This will show the nation whether or not the Minister is actually prepared to list controversial heritage sites which are clearly at risk."

Senator Campbell said the emergency listing nomination by Senator Siewert, Labor's Carmen Lawrence and Independent MP Peter Andren was outrageous.

"We're making a decision on the listing of the whole region . . . and they're saying, well just chuck that out and put an emergency listing in," he said. "Why has (Opposition Leader) Kevin Rudd allowed a senior member of his team to try to stop Woodside's project, that's the question."