

New plea to save Burrup rock art

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Archaeologist Sylvia Hallam has made an 11th hour bid to protect rock art on the Burrup Peninsula where Woodside has started work on its \$10 billion Pluto gas project.

Dr Hallam, a former University of WA associate professor, has written to Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull urging him to safeguard the site by giving it a national heritage listing.

"The long established but disastrous policy of using the Burrup Peninsula for liquefied natural gas plants

not only affects Australia's heritage reputation in the world, but also impedes effective long-term industrial planning," her letter says.

"I have visited the Burrup Peninsula and observed its art and archaeology over the last 30 years, watching with increasing disbelief not only the assault on its unique heritage, but also the attempt to cram industrial construction into its tiny valley areas."

Dr Hallam said she had previously written to former environment minister Ian Campbell and Premier Alan Carpenter "with nil effect".

Mr Turnbull has until Friday to decide whether or not to place the Burrup on a National Heritage List, though Woodside began work on the Pluto project last month.

Dr Hallam said the rock art dates back 20,000 years and shows archaic faces, big sets of concentric circles that resemble eyes and signs of ceremonial and religious activity.

Woodside planned to liaise with Aboriginal elders to remove rock art when Senator Campbell gave the go-ahead to for work to start on the project. The resources giant wants to build LNG storage containers.



New voice: A retired UWA archaeologist has joined calls for Woodside's Pluto gas project to be moved to protect rock art