

Woodside and rock art



April 2007

The Burrup Peninsula

Woodside has had a presence on the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia since the 1970s, when we began developing gas fields off Australia's north-west coast.

The Burrup and the islands that surround it are home to an estimated one million rock art engravings, and provide a valuable insight into Aboriginal and early Australian history.

Woodside has operated gas facilities on the Burrup Peninsula for over 25 years, and we understand its cultural and historical significance to local Aboriginal people and the wider community. We support national heritage listing as a means of recognising the importance of the area.

National Heritage Listing

In 2004 the Burrup Peninsula and surrounding area was nominated for inclusion on the National Heritage List.

We recognise the high symbolic value of placing this region on the list.

Woodside accepts that clean, high-value industries such as gas production can coexist with National Heritage Listing on the Burrup.

We believe development on the Burrup should be constrained to a small gas precinct, not included in the heritage listed area.

Within this precinct, we believe there should be strong management measures to ensure the continued protection of rock art.

Key Statistics

Size of Burrup Peninsula	117 square kilometres
Size of Dampier rock art precinct (including the Burrup Peninsula and surrounding islands)	270 square kilometres
Footprint of Burrup LNG Park	About 1 square kilometre
Engravings within Dampier rock art precinct	Up to 1 million, as estimated by the National Trust
Engravings within Burrup LNG Park footprint	Between 100 and 200
Engravings to be relocated	All of the above
Engravings expected to be destroyed	None
Cost of Pluto development	About A\$6 billion to A\$10 billion
Contribution to the Australian economy	About A\$17.6 billion
Direct jobs created	About 3000 during construction (2007-2010) and 200 during operations (2010 onwards)
Long term indirect jobs created	More than 3000
State and federal taxes generated	About A\$8.5 billion

The Burrup LNG Park

Woodside is constructing the Burrup LNG Park to process gas from its Pluto field and other regional fields for export as LNG, an important clean fuel source that will assist the global community in meeting the climate change challenge.

The Burrup LNG Park will occupy about one per cent of the Burrup Peninsula.

We have designed the Burrup LNG Park in consultation with local Aboriginal people to avoid 95 per cent of the rock art engravings on our leases.

Any engravings which cannot be avoided we plan to move. We estimate the total number of engravings needing to be moved to be between 100 and 200, depending on the final design of our plant and ongoing survey work. These engravings will be moved with the guidance of local indigenous groups.

We do not expect to damage or destroy any rock art.

Site preparation began in January 2007 on the first of two industrial sites that will be occupied by the Burrup LNG Park. Relocation of rock art on this site has been completed, with 42 engravings safely moved to a nearby natural setting selected with the help of traditional Aboriginal custodians. The engravings now sit almost indistinguishable from the surrounding landscape.