

Federal law favoured to protect Burrup rock art

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Heritage listing of ancient Aboriginal rock art on the Burrup Peninsula is more appropriate at a Federal rather than State level, WA Heritage Minister Michelle Roberts says.

While the WA Heritage Council is still finalising its assessment of the area, Mrs Roberts said yesterday the area would be best protected by a combination of a Federal listing and provisions of the State Aboriginal Heritage Act.

The State Government initially condemned national heritage listing of the area on the basis it could cause an economic catastrophe.

But it dropped its opposition in November last year after changes to Federal environmental laws which it said addressed concerns that the protection of the rock art would jeopardise industry.

Mrs Roberts said industry and heritage listing could co-exist over a broad area of the Burrup.