

## Turnbull now facing pressure over Burrup

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Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull is facing renewed pressure in his Sydney electorate with yet another environment group advertising in his local newspaper.

The Friends of Australian Rock Art have taken out an ad in the Wentworth Courier urging residents to demand Mr Turnbull conduct an inquiry into the heritage values of the ancient indigenous rock art in Western Australia's Pilbara region.

That's the area where resources giant Woodside has proposed building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant.

Earlier this year, Mr Turnbull announced National Heritage listing for 241 square kilometres of the Dampier Archipelago, which includes the Burrup peninsula.

It covers 99 per cent of land where ancient rock art is known to exist, but not the proposed LNG plant sites.

Mr Turnbull also faces pressure over his decision on the proposed Gunns Ltd pulp mill in Tasmania.

The latest problem with Burrup rock art relates to vandalism of an ancient panel - estimated to be thousands of years old - featuring kangaroos and fish.

Robin Chapple, West Australian director of conservation group, the Minerals Policy Institute, said some sort of metal implement had been used to deliberately deface the artwork.

"Those markings are now there for at least the next 10,000 years," he told ABC radio.

"It is humankind's pre-history. Out there are motifs and material that date back 27-30,000 years, possibly the first human faces ever replicated on the planet."

Mr Chapple said Mr Turnbull could still press Woodside to change its preferred location for its LNG plant, and Wednesday's advertisement in the Wentworth Courier urged voters to press their local MP to do just that.

"By placing the advertisement, which is a half-page ad in the one paper that is in that area, calling on the minister to review the state's decision, is a very valid attempt to ensure that the values of the Burrup are retained," he said.

"There has been a significant campaign in relation to the Gunns activity in Tasmania going on in that electorate and it is quite clear that that electorate is now extremely marginal."

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