

Wednesday, 26 September 2007, 10:57:05 AEST

Turnbull targeted in push to save Burrup rock art

A group campaigning for the preservation of all Indigenous rock art on the Burrup Peninsula near Karratha, in north-west Western Australia, is trying to put electoral pressure on federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The Friends of Australian Rock Art has taken out an advertisement in today's *Wentworth Courier* newspaper, which circulates in Mr Turnbull's Sydney electorate.

The move is similar to a high-profile campaign to persuade Mr Turnbull to reject an application for the Gunns pulp mill to be built in northern Tasmania.

Robin Chapple from the Minerals Policy Institute of WA told the ABC's *AM* program the advertisement is a legitimate tactic.

"Calling on the Minister to review the state's decisions is a very valid attempt to ensure that values of the Burrup are retained."

The protection of the ancient artworks near Karratha has been a long running and sensitive issue, with the Western Australian and Federal governments attempting to balance environmental and heritage protection with development in the resource-rich area.