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Friends of
Australian
Rock Art

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July 3, 2007
For immediate release

Attention: Chiefs of Staff, news editors,
Business, environment and indigenous affairs reporters

Dampier rock art National Heritage Listing – Woodside must go now

Cultural heritage advocates have welcomed federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull's National Heritage Listing of the Dampier rock art precinct, but warn that rock art on the Burrup is still threatened by Woodside's proposed Pluto LNG plant.

Robin Chapple, spokesperson for Friends of Australian Rock Art, said today that the National Heritage Listing would still allow Woodside's giant Pluto LNG plant to proceed.

"Now that the Dampier rock art is National Heritage listed" said Mr Chapple "it's clear that Woodside's proposed Pluto plant should not go ahead on the Burrup".

"In the long-term the Pluto plant and its emissions would irreparably damage the rock art" said Mr Chapple.

"Woodside can easily locate its plant near Onslow, where BHP and Apache plan to build their plants. But the rock art, which contains perhaps more than 30,000 years of history in one place, cannot be relocated. It is irreplaceable".

"The Heritage Listing quite clearly puts a spanner in the works of the WA's Government's plan to turn this area into Australia's largest industrial precinct," said Mr Chapple.

"By refusing Woodside's application for land for expansion next to its joint venture lease, Mr Turnbull has sent a message to Woodside. Without expansion land to the east, Woodside's proposed investment on the Burrup becomes much less viable".

Mr Chapple said that WA Premier Alan Carpenter should show leadership and establish a gas industry plan that would support industry development while respecting the world's cultural heritage.

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For comment, please call Robin Chapple: 0409 379 263