



Media Alert

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Varanus explosion points to continued Burrup folly

The Varanus explosion points to the folly of placing petrochemical plants in the middle of the world's oldest prehistory museum.

“The incident on Varanus Island must be a wake up call for the State Government”

“If this had happened on the Burrup we would have lost thousands of carvings as they became dislodged by the event”, said Robin Chapple, Co-convener of FARA.

On the Burrup even controlled construction blasting has led to the dislodgment and fracturing of carvings and standing stones from the slopes and galleries.

Apache and BHP have done the right thing and taken their petrochemical plants to other locations in the Pilbara, it is only the state government that is still pursuing the destruction of this National Heritage site.

Further developments earmarked for the Burrup include the expansion of the Woodside Pluto project which has already relocated 250 carvings.

Yara and Burrup Holdings JV plan to build a 350,000 ton p.a. technical ammonium nitrate (TAN), explosives plant and Methanex who have decided to move their mega-methanol plant from Darwin back to the Burrup.

“If any one or combination of the current or planned plants suffers this form of major event, then we will effectively wipe of the earliest example of human kinds artistic endeavor”.

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