



# Media Alert

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Release: Immediate  
Attention: Chiefs of Staff, news editors, business reporters

## **Barnett calls for relocation of future Dampier industrial development away from world heritage Burrup rock art**

Friends of Australian Rock Art welcomes Monday's call by WA Opposition leader Colin Barnett for further industrial development in the Pilbara's Dampier Archipelago region to be shifted away from the world heritage rock art of the Burrup Peninsula to the existing Maitland industrial estate area further south (*West Australian* August 11 2008).

FARA's longstanding view is that future industrial expansion in the Dampier region could take place in a number of other viable sites off the Burrup (including the Maitland estate) which would not impact on the area's unique rock art.

Barnett, a former WA Resources Minister in the Court Government, stated in a June 2006 interview with 60 Minutes' Ray Martin that 'it is absolutely unacceptable that Australia destroy any significant amount of this rock art. That's our heritage. And this is not just Aboriginal heritage, this is Australia's heritage, it's world heritage... People are trying to pretend that the rock art is not there. What I'm saying is this is of world significance and we cannot accept the loss of large areas of rock as happened in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Ignorance that may be an excuse in those days is not an excuse today' (for full transcript and vision, see: [2006-06-25 60 Minutes Channel 9, Sacred stones.wmv](#) at <http://dampierrockart.net/media/>).

Despite national heritage listing by the Federal Government last year, the WA ALP Government has continued to promote plans for further industrial development in the heart of the Burrup Peninsula rock art precinct by Woodside Energy and other companies. In 2006 and 2007, the WA Government approved the removal of over 900 pieces of rock art to make way for Woodside's Pluto LNG plant.

The Burrup Peninsula is thought to be the world's oldest and largest outdoor rock art site, and contains what may be the earliest known representations of the human face, as well as long extinct species such as the thylacine. Burrup rock art provides a continuous record of human activity stretching back nearly 30,000 years, and is the only Australian site on the World Monument Fund's list of 100 most endangered cultural monuments in the world, along with Angkor Wat and Macchu Picchu.

### **For further information:**

- Media comment by Colin Barnett on the Burrup issue, see [2007-03-14 The Burrup Gets Burked-New Matilda.pdf](#) at <http://dampierrockart.net/media/>
- FARA's international Burrup campaign: [www.standupfortheburrup.com](http://www.standupfortheburrup.com)
- Friends of Australian Rock Art media comment:  
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