



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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SENATOR WELCOMES FEDERAL PROTECTION OF BURRUP ROCK ART

WA Senator Alan Eggleston has welcomed the announcement that the renowned rock art of the Burrup Peninsula has been included in the National Heritage List.

Senator Eggleston said the Burrup Peninsula, located south of Karratha, was home to thousands of ancient rock carvings, earning it the moniker of 'the world's largest art gallery.'

"I first saw Burrup's ancient rock carvings in the early 1990s and was absolutely astounded by the art's magnitude and diversity," he said.

"Images in the Burrup area range from figures of humans engaged in everyday activities like hunting, to animals such as fish, turtles, emus, snakes and even Tasmanian Tigers which have been extinct on mainland Australia for thousands of years."

Senator Eggleston said the Burrup Petroglyphs were part of the human population's archaeological heritage and, given they are believed to be up to 30,000 years old – which is 5 times older than Egyptian civilization -- their protection was of the utmost importance.

The Senator, who co-hosted a seminar in Canberra earlier this year to discuss the future of the Burrup Petroglyphs, said he was satisfied that the heritage listing will ensure the protection of these precious carvings.

"Unfortunately it is the case that some of the art has already been destroyed in the process of establishing industrial plants in the area," he said.

"In the interest of preserving the remaining petroglyphs, future industrial development should not be located on the Burrup Peninsula but either on Maitland Estate or preferably at Onslow where there were no problems with port access."