



MEDIA RELEASE



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Bid for Burrup rock art to join World Heritage list

- Estimated as many as one million rock art carvings located on the Burrup
- Of the 12 UNESCO natural World Heritage sites in Australia three are in Western Australia - Shark Bay, the Bungle Bungles and the Ningaloo Coast
- Will create a World Heritage Coast, highlighting Western Australia's extraordinary landscape and culture to the world

The world's largest concentration of rock carvings in the Western Australian Pilbara's Burrup Peninsula will be nominated for prestigious World Heritage listing boosting the region's tourism potential, under a re-elected Liberal Government.

Premier Colin Barnett said the plan would see the Burrup rock art sit alongside pristine Shark Bay and the abundant marine life of the Ningaloo Coast to become the third World Heritage-listed place of special cultural or physical significance on the WA coast.

"It is important this unique rock art is recognised nationally and internationally for its incredible cultural record of Aboriginal life at this location many thousands of years ago," Mr Barnett said.

Rock art recorded on the Burrup Peninsula displays a great range of stylistic diversity that includes engraved depictions of humans, birds, land and sea animals, some of which are now extinct on mainland Australia, geometric designs as well as petroglyphs that are of ceremonial, ritual and religious significance.

It has been estimated that as many as one million carvings may be located on the Burrup. However, as only a small portion of the peninsula has been subject to detailed survey and research, the actual number and full extent of diversity of the rock art remain unknown.

A Liberal government will work with traditional owners, relevant industry, local government and other parties to pursue the listing in accordance with the provisions of the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement Deed and with the Commonwealth Government under the Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement.

"A World Heritage listing would complement the local Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's plans for cultural tourism opportunities and infrastructure, including the creation of a Living Knowledge Centre to conserve, protect and interpret cultural values and sites on the peninsula.

Fact File

- The Burrup rock art is unique not just because of its concentration of carvings, but also because it remains a place of high cultural significance to the traditional owners.
- Dating the rock art on the Burrup Peninsula has so far proved difficult, however, it is estimated that some may be up to 30,000-years-old.
- The cultural significance of the Burrup Peninsula is not limited to carvings. There are also a range of other in-situ heritage features including flaked stone tools, shell deposits, quarried rock material, standing stone arrangements as well as trees that have been modified for cultural purposes.

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