



NATIONAL TRUST

MEDIA RELEASE

Dampier Archipelago's heritage gains support

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The National Trust of Australia today announced its inaugural 'Our Heritage at Risk' national top ten list in Hobart, Tasmania.

The final list was derived from over 60 'Our Heritage at Risk' places throughout Australia, identified by the Trusts earlier this year.

The Dampier Archipelago contains the world's largest, possibly oldest and arguably most significant rock art assemblage spread over an area of 45km throughout the Archipelago.

The artwork is estimated to be at least 6,000 years old, but is being threatened by industrial development and is now listed on the World Monuments Fund list of 100 Most Endangered Monuments.

A substantial part of the Archipelago was recently placed on the National Heritage List which is an important first step in the long term conservation of this remarkable place.

"The national listing represents the most significant and positive step taken in the protection of the heritage values of this place since industrial development began in the region in the early 1960s", said the Western Australian National Trust spokesperson.

However being named on heritage lists does not guarantee the survival of the Dampier Archipelago due to ongoing pressure of industrial development.

Substantial progress towards the development and implementation of a comprehensive and robust management regime is urgently required to ensure that the heritage values of this place are conserved and interpreted for future generations.

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