

Press Release

During the past week the Government has announced the signing of contracts between mining interests in Western Australia and steel manufacturers in Japan. These contracts are the fruition of our hopes for the development of a great iron industry in the Pilbara. In making these announcements we have said that the outlet ports for this industry will be at Port Hedland and at King Bay in the Dampier Archipelago, so it has now become clear that Depuch Island is no longer being considered for the harbour development which was visualized at the time this Report on Depuch Island was written.

This does not mean that the valuable work published here is wasted. Now, as the result of it, we have an accurate statement of the Island in its context as one of the most remarkable native art sites in existence and of which we, as Western Australians, can be justly proud.

We also have a set of recommendations from an authoritative and responsible body, the Western Australian Museum Board, which shows how the Island can be developed as a port if the need should ever arise.

The Government is very much aware of the great artistic and anthropological value of Depuch Island and I am pleased to be able to point out that it is already under protection as a native reserve controlled by the Native Welfare Department of which I am Minister.

E. H. M. LEWIS,

Minister for Education and Native Welfare.

23rd December, 1964.