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Comment called on the Burrup

A DRAFT land use and management plan for the Pilbara's Burrup Peninsula - home of Australia's largest tonnage port - was recently released for public comment by Resources Development Minister Colin Barnett.

Mr Barnett said the management plan would ensure well-planned and managed development of the area while also preserving the valuable conservation, recreation and heritage values of the region.

"We have been waiting for two decades to get a plan which takes account of all the values offered by the Burrup Peninsula and this plan seems to have encapsulated this objective," he said.

"Not only that, it comes with an implementation program and, once approved, can be put into action immediately."

The Burrup Peninsula was particularly important for the State and was home to some of the State's most strategic industries, including the \$12 billion North West Shelf Gas project. Exports totaling about 20 per cent of WA's total export earnings are shipped through the Port of Dampier at the Burrup each year.

"An imaginative plan has been developed to ensure the Burrup's multiple natural benefits are maintained or enhanced while still meeting the development needs of the State," Mr Barnett said.

Increasing recreational and industrial demands on the peninsula have created an urgent need for a management plan to be put in place.

The plan primarily recommended the division of the peninsula into two land use zones - one for conservation, which would include aboriginal heritage, tourism and recreation, and one for industrial development, and for those areas to be vested accordingly.

The plan proposed that more than 60 per cent of the peninsula be allocated to the conservation zone as part of the Dampier Archipelago conservation estate under control of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). The conservation zone would feature a continuous north-south corridor to cater for continuity of fauna and flora.

With respect to land use, it was also proposed that a further 22 per cent of the peninsula be retained for industrial development - 17 per cent of the area is currently occupied by industry - with the emphasis on access to potential port sites.

Mr Barnett said public comment on the draft would be open until July 29, 1994. Public submissions would be reviewed and incorporated in a final-report to the Government to be ratified as a planning blueprint for the region.

The report can be viewed at the Karratha, Dampier, Roebourne and Wickham libraries. Limited copies of the plan are available from the Pilbara Development Commission (Karratha office).