

# **CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

## **Media Release**

**13 June 2002**

### **GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO IGNORE LATEST ENVIRONMENTAL ADVICE ON BURRUP PENINSULA**

Statements made in Parliament by State Development Minister Clive Brown pre-empt the outcome of the environmental impact assessment process, the Conservation Council of WA claimed today.

Rachel Siewert, Coordinator of the Conservation Council, said, "The Environmental Protection Authority has yet to provide its advice to the Minister for the Environment on many of the Burrup proposals. Yet Minister Brown says the decision has been made to use key parts of the Burrup for industrial development."

"New information relating to proposals by Methanex and GTL Resources has highlighted the unique biodiversity values of the Burrup Peninsula. When you add biodiversity values, world heritage rock art values and recreational and amenity values there's no question that industry proposed for the Burrup should be directed to the Maitland industrial estate."

"Minister Brown is being blinded by the dollar signs. The Gallop Government made an election commitment to strengthen the independence of the EPA. But, the Government seems prepared to ignore what the EPA might say about the Burrup. The EPA is still receiving technical environmental information about Burrup proposals."

"Leading botanists and ecologists have found the broad-brush survey work, upon which the early 90s Burrup Land Use Management Plan (BLUMP) was based, to be incorrect. Vital decisions about the future of the State's natural and cultural heritage must not be based on flawed surveys," said Ms Siewert.

Recently released work by botanist Malcolm Trudgen, who was commissioned to undertake botanical survey work, has found that on ecological grounds alone the Burrup merits world heritage listing.

"Furthermore, claims by Clive Brown that it's more economical to have projects located on the Burrup Peninsula, rather than at Maitland industrial estate, are nonsensical. The Government has already announced the future development of Maitland, so spending on developing infrastructure for both Burrup and Maitland is simply wasting taxpayers money. Maitland has more than enough land available to accommodate all imaginable North West Shelf gas processing developments," said Ms Siewert.

Media Contact: Rachel Siewert phone 9420 7266 or mobile 0419 914 424