

Burrup to open up to tourists

By Nicole Heinrich

HUNDREDS of thousands of tourists could visit the Burrup Peninsula each year after the development of a management plan for the area, according to Member for North West Coastal Fred Riebeling.

Mr Riebeling believes local residents and Aboriginal tourism operators will reap benefits including improved access and recreational facilities as part of plans for the area.

A sealed road to Conzinc Bay, boat launching and parking facilities at Withnell Bay, a \$5.5-million interpretive centre, picnic spots and walking trails are included in the draft plan unveiled by WA Environment Minister Mark McGowan.

"When the plan is implemented, there will be a magnificent opportunity for Aboriginal people to make significant amounts of money out of tourism from their own culture," Mr Riebeling said.

He said the draft plan proposed 'new and exciting' business opportunities for local indigenous people.

"In particular the proposals for the

development of a cultural centre, camping facilities and tourism ventures reflect a greater recognition of the traditional owners' distinctive place in the region," he said.

"The Ngarda-ngarli people welcome visitors to their land and encourage them to enjoy the country, to look around and appreciate and learn from the country and its people."

Mr Riebeling said locals and visitors would have two-wheel drive access to the northern Burrup area for the first time after infrastructure was built.

"That will be a significant plus," he said.

"It will help locals get out there and define where they can go.

"It will be fantastic out there in time."

He said the potential to attract visitors was hard to estimate.

"This unique opportunity really is unique. It's something that hasn't really been developed before.

"I think it could attract hundreds of thousands of people annually potentially and if it's done properly, also create many long-term permanent employment positions which is also important."