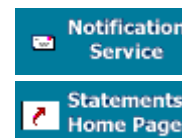


Government of Western Australia  
**Media Statement**

Statement Released: 1-Aug-2006  
Portfolio: Premier

Independent chair appointed to Dampier Archipelago co-ordination committee

1/08/06

Premier Alan Carpenter today announced native title solicitor Bardy McFarlane as the chairperson for a new co-ordination body which will oversee heritage and conservation management on the Dampier Archipelago.

"The appointment of Bardy McFarlane as the chair for the proposed Dampier Archipelago Co-ordination Body is good news for the region," Mr Carpenter said.

"Mr McFarlane has an excellent understanding of the issues involved with the region, having been involved with negotiating the \$17million Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement which returned 62 per cent of the Burrup to the Aboriginal people.

"Mr McFarlane was involved with mediation between three native title claimants, the State Government, and five companies wishing to establish downstream gas processing facilities.

"He has extensive experience as a lawyer in the areas of natural resource management, environmental law, government relations, commercial litigation, and native title, and has served on several councils and boards."

"The State Government is very pleased that Mr McFarlane has taken up the important role of chair, and I am confident that he will successfully oversee the management of the region."

The proposed co-ordination body would be put forward to cabinet later in the month after Mr McFarlane had consulted with the Dampier community and decided on the best arrangements for the body.

The proposed Dampier Archipelago Co-ordination Body would comprise government, industry, community, indigenous, and non-government organisation representatives.

It was part of the State Government's commitment to looking after the needs of heritage, conservation and industry on the Dampier Archipelago. It would develop a comprehensive management plan, and set guidelines and limits for monitoring the status of the environment and heritage of the entire Dampier Archipelago area.

"Through this proposed body the State Government will further strengthen the heritage and conservation management of the Dampier Archipelago," the

Premier said.

"The region contains significant indigenous heritage and conservation values, and is also home to a resources industry which is not only vital to the survival of the area but also to the State and National economy.

"The State Government is committed to a co-operative approach between government, the community and landholders to manage this important region."

The Proposed Dampier Archipelago Co-ordination Body would be based in Karratha.

Premier's office: 9222 9888

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**Government of Western Australia**

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