

Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc

Position Paper

National Heritage Listing of the Burrup Peninsula,

North West Australia

The Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula) has been recommended for National Heritage Listing by the Federal Government. The Australian Heritage Council has completed an assessment of the area and advised Senator Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, that, in their opinion, the area meets the high threshold for inclusion in the National Heritage List. Senator Campbell has invited comments on boundary and management issues before he makes a final decision.

The Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc represents a wide range of businesses with differing interests in the Burrup.

For the past five years, the Chamber has recognised the significant conflicting demands between economic and conservation imperatives including:

- The importance of the resource industry to the local and national economy and the need for major infrastructure works to be built in the area to capitalise on global commodities opportunities.
- The size and global significance of the Burrup rock art precinct and the need to conserve it.

The Chamber advocates both economic developments in the area and heritage conservation on the Burrup. It has been seeking a path forward where both objectives can be achieved.

The Chamber recognises that a comprehensive management plan encompassing industry, heritage and environment issues on the Burrup is urgently required. And unless all stakeholders can come to a mutual agreement on a comprehensive plan, national heritage listing of the Burrup may well happen.

The Chamber believes that management planning for the Burrup is hampered by:

- Lack of comprehensive archaeological and heritage survey works on the rock art and stone arrangements on the Burrup.

- The potential deterrence factor for further industrial development on the Burrup particularly if a national listing occurs.
- Increasing economic costs of further industrial development.

The Chamber calls on:

- All stakeholders to come together to work out a management plan for submission to Senator Campbell to replace the need for a national listing.
- Stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive impact statement on economic, environmental, social and governance issues.
- The WA State Government to fast track comprehensive survey works on the Burrup
- The WA State Government to identify and develop an alternate nearby site for further downstream processing industries.

For further information please contact Karratha and Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry on (08) 91441999.

Signed:

Leann Cooper
President

7 November 2006