



MEMBER FOR NORTH WEST COASTAL MEDIA STATEMENT



23 April 2007

Federal Government to ban Beach Access

Fred Riebeling, Member for North West Coastal today said that the Federal Environment Minister, Malcolm Turnbull's confirmation that the Northern Burrup would be Heritage listed means the public will be denied access to Conzinc Bay and its sandy beaches.

"The proposed National Heritage Listing will deny access to all and threatens to severely dent tourism & indigenous business opportunities and industrial development" said Mr Riebeling.

The State government Native Title agreement allows the best of all worlds. The Northern Burrup and rock art is protected, an interpretive centre will be built to facilitate public access and understanding of the rock art and the long suffering locals of Karratha and Dampier will get access via a sealed road to clean, clear water to swim in and sandy beaches to play on at Conzinc Bay.

"None of this will be possible under the proposed National Heritage Listing!" said Mr Riebeling.

"Not only has the Federal government refused to fund the necessary infrastructure to provide the incentive for companies to invest in the North West but now in a town with the highest house rents in the country they want to remove access to the only decent sandy beach in 50km's".

"I call upon the Federal government to stop treating the Shire of Roebourne as its personal piggy bank and give back something to the residents of these towns that are carrying the country on their back" said Fred Riebeling.

"It's about time that Barry Haase delivered something for the local community. The Federal government hasn't thought much of his attempts to increase zone allowances but perhaps he can get an exemption for the road by pointing out to Malcolm Turnbull what access to Conzinc Bay would mean for locals without a boat."

Access to the beach via a sealed road will not impact on the Rock Art and is a proposal that is supported by the local indigenous groups.

Enough is enough – don't take away our beach!

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