



Locked up

Conzinc to close

By Ben Cranston

PICTURESQUE Conzinc Bay will be off limits once Federal Heritage Minister Malcolm Turnbull gives heritage listing to the Burrup Peninsula, according to North West Coastal MLA Fred Riebeling.

Accessible via the Jump Up, a nightmarish ascent into the Northern Burrup via four-wheel-drive, Conzinc Bay is a stunning spot for fishing, swimming and crabbing.

A frequent bay user told the *Pilbara News* on a high tide the popular beach, accessible by vehicle, was the pick of the bunch in a region filled with idyllic aqua playgrounds.

"It is about the only camping spot within a short distance you can drive to and take the kids for an overnight stay," they said.

"It is pretty difficult to get to but I thought they were going to concrete the Jump Up to make it more accessible."

However, Fred Riebeling said the confirmation by Mr Turnbull the Northern Burrup would be heritage listed meant the public would 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 and indigenous business opportunities and industrial development," Mr Riebeling said.

"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."

He said none of this would be possible under the proposed National Heritage Listing.

"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," he said.

"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.

"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."

A spokeswoman for Barry Haase said National Heritage Listing of the Burrup Peninsula did not mean the public would be denied access to Conzinc Bay.

"Listings do not affect land tenure nor will it deny access to the Burrup or Dampier Archipelago," she said.

"Current activities can continue within a National Heritage site, so long as they do not have a significant impact."