

House: Legislative Assembly
Date: Thursday, 21 June 2007
Member: Ripper, Mr Eric
Subject: DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO - HERITAGE VALUES
Page: 3503b - 3503b / 2

DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO - HERITAGE VALUES

Statement by Minister for State Development

MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont - Minister for State Development) [9.17 am]: Madam Deputy Speaker, this government has long supported the significant heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago. These have been recognised in the various planning strategies prepared by the state over the past decade. In January 2003, we signed the landmark Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement with the area's three Aboriginal native title claimant groups. The agreement provides a range of benefits for the Aboriginal people of that area. Indeed, approximately 55 per cent of the land north of the Burrup Road is to be vested in the Aboriginal people. We strongly believe that it is possible for industry and heritage to coexist in the Dampier Archipelago.

I am pleased to say that under this agreement, \$4 million was transferred to the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation last July. The agreement will also transfer almost 30 per cent of the Burrup Peninsula to the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation. I understand that during the next two weeks the federal Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Hon Malcolm Turnbull, will make an announcement regarding national heritage listing for the Dampier Archipelago and Burrup Peninsula. Areas of the Dampier Archipelago and the Burrup Peninsula will be included on the heritage list because of the remarkable engravings and the concentration of standing stones, stone circles and arrangements. The state government welcomes the inclusion of this important heritage area on the list. It demonstrates the unique nature of this site, and offers additional protection available under commonwealth laws. The National Heritage List lists places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia. The places on the list reflect our collective history as a nation. The Sydney Opera House was recently placed on the list and the proposed inclusion of the Dampier Archipelago and the Burrup Peninsula attests to the significance of our unique environment and Indigenous art.

The region is also one of Australia's most important industrial areas. It is rich in natural gas, iron ore and a range of other minerals, and provides a safe harbour and access to deep water and existing infrastructure. We have sought to balance the rights of Indigenous groups and the interests of industry and heritage values in the 2003 agreement. In order to ensure that this balance is maintained, the government has established a task force to address the key legislative, environmental and management regimes, to underpin a bilateral agreement with the commonwealth. I chair a ministerial committee that oversees the development of the bilateral agreement. A bilateral agreement and management arrangement that will protect the important heritage values of the region, while allowing the state to manage the approvals process for major projects, is currently being developed. It will be released for public

comment. In addition, an Indigenous heritage management plan is also being developed to protect the heritage values of the entire Dampier Archipelago. It offers a multi-user approach to managing the Indigenous cultural heritage of the Dampier Archipelago, and will provide a way forward to proactively manage the area in accordance with identified national heritage values.

Heritage surveys over future industrial land are also being undertaken in conjunction with the local Indigenous groups. The Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Committee and CSIRO continue to monitor the status of the rock art. The government has an outstanding record of maintaining heritage. The state government welcomes the federal government's National Heritage listing decision for this important region and looks forward to working collaboratively with the commonwealth government, the local Indigenous community and industry to manage an area of great significance to all Australians.