



Department of Conservation
and Land Management



Conserving the
Nature of WA

Your Ref: 5/08/203/056
Our Ref: 2009P001560V01
Enquires: Mr P Sharp

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COPY

Dear Denis

**NOMINATION OF THE BURRUP PENINSULA, ISLANDS OF THE DAMPIER
ARCHIPELAGO AND DAMPIER COAST FOR INCLUSION IN THE
NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST**

I refer to your correspondence of 14 October 2005 and a subsequent meeting of State and Commonwealth officials in Perth that discussed the nomination of the Burrup Peninsula, Dampier Archipelago and Dampier Coast.

You have written to me as the owner/occupier of lands affected by the proposal seeking comment on whether the places should be included in the National Heritage List.

I am advised that Western Australian Government officials have written to you indicating that the State agencies affected by the nomination will be coordinating a submission which shall be transmitted to you through the Office of Federal Affairs in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR) is the lead agency for coordinating input and I understand they have written to you requesting an extension of time in which to prepare and make submissions to the Council.

I can advise you that at this stage the nomination area contains a mix of land tenures and uses that are of major strategic importance to the State and national economies and that there are substantial concerns being expressed about possible adverse impacts that a listing may have on industrial development in the region.

The Commonwealth officials (Mr Terry Bailey, Mr John Avery and Ms Chrissy Grant) who recently visited Western Australia to explain the procedures and implications for the heritage assessment and management also spoke to the affected agencies about the particular case of the Burrup and Dampier Peninsula. Their explanations and descriptions of the procedural requirements and the stepwise progression of nominations were informative and generally well received.

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There was general agreement that a State and Commonwealth cooperative approach to an assessment would be beneficial and that agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) will endeavour to provide support.

I can advise that CALM undertook a review of the terrestrial natural heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula and Islands of the Dampier Archipelago against the National Heritage criteria.

Of the nine National Heritage criteria, criterion (b) was found to be the most applicable in relation to the terrestrial natural heritage values. However, it is CALM's view that although the areas have very important biodiversity conservation values and support rare and threatened species, the occurrence of these species is not restricted to the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago. Therefore, based on current knowledge, the terrestrial natural heritage values of the area would appear unlikely to independently support National Heritage listing.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Western Australian Museum are the State agencies with the best expertise for assessing the significance of the cultural heritage values of the petroglyphs of the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago. I understand they will be cooperating with CALM, DOIIR and the Office of Federal Affairs in preparing a State response to the nomination.

Yours sincerely



Keiran McNamara
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15 December 2005
