



MEMBER FOR NORTH WEST COASTAL MEDIA STATEMENT



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Commonwealth to provide death knell for Karratha?

Fred Riebeling, MLA for North West Coastal, today warned residents of the Shire of Roebourne that a National Heritage Listing over the Burrup Peninsula by the Commonwealth government would sound a death knell for Karratha and the region.

“The Shire of Roebourne, local Chamber of Commerce and residents should be very concerned that the Federal Government, could approve the listing and effectively stop development on the Burrup” he said.

“I call upon the Shire and the Chamber to add their voice to the State government’s opposition to this National Heritage Listing nomination” said Mr Riebeling.

If the Federal Government lists the Burrup Peninsula on the National Heritage Register you can be assured that the uncertainty caused, will result in Train 6, Pluto, Japan DME and Agrium not being built in Western Australia. The State will lose between \$19 and \$26 Billion and many long-term jobs.

The worldwide push towards greater efficiency means companies move towards smaller workforces and the natural consequence of this will be a reduction in population for Karratha. Development of our massive resource base is essential to grow the area and provide a sustainable population base for essential services.

“National Heritage Listing will stop Australia’s most vibrant development site in its tracks and consign Karratha to being a dying backwater” said Mr Riebeling.

The proponents of the National Heritage Listing have suggested it is necessary to protect the rock art from industrial development and pollution. Preliminary results from the State Governments Rock Art Monitoring Study indicate very low levels of airborne pollutants and consequently the impact on the rock art is likely be very small and quite possibly unmeasurable.

The Maitland Industrial Estate has been proposed as the alternative to further developing the Burrup Peninsula by some people who don’t understand the distribution of Rock Art. This is not an option as rock art is widespread on West Intercourse Island and this would prohibit its use as the port for the Maitland Industrial Estate.

“Everyone in the Pilbara supports protecting the Rock Art” stated Mr Riebeling. “This is being achieved within the States’ existing rules and environmental framework for development and will enable tourism, rock art and industry to co-exist on the Burrup Peninsula for the foreseeable future.”

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