

Fingers crossed

By Ben Cranston

MAJOR announcements are expected at a State Government 'talkfest' in Karratha on Monday, according to North West Coastal MLA Fred Riebling.

Mr Riebling remained tight-lipped about the announcements expected at the regional cabinet meeting next week.

But he admitted he'd been working with various ministers on solving some major problems in the Pilbara.

Polities promise big announcements

Mr Riebling voiced his support for industry expansion on the Burrup Peninsula and said it was ridiculous for Greens Senator Bob Brown to oppose development on the Burrup from Canberra without seeing the rock art for themselves.

"Sixty per cent is being locked up, the balance of the good rock art is being protected," Mr Riebling said.

He also threw down his support for Chevron Texaco's

Gorgon proposal to process gas on Barrow Island saying the flat-back turtle nested at numerous places in the area.

Some of the other big issues affecting Pilbara residents, up for discussion at the meeting, would be the availability of land for building, housing prices and a proposed new high school in Karratha.

"It's a chance for cabinet to meet and greet and experience

first-hand life in the Pilbara," Mr Riebling said.

"It's a great time for them to come, it's very appropriate - it's all part of good government."

He added that community forums set to take place were an ideal way for the community and government to interact face-to-face.

Ministers could see first hand whether services were being provided on an equitable basis in their respective portfolios.