



PREMIER

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Industry and heritage can co-exist: Premier.

The State Government strongly believes it is possible to protect the Burrup rock art without jeopardising industry, Premier Alan Carpenter said today.

The Premier said he had written to Federal Environment and Heritage Minister Ian Campbell today in response to the Commonwealth's proposed National Heritage Listing of the Dampier Archipelago, which included the Burrup Peninsula.

Mr Carpenter said the State Government had initially opposed the National Heritage Listing. However, the Commonwealth had taken action to address the State's concerns and had entered into discussions to progress management plans and an approvals bi-lateral agreement.

"The State Government has long acknowledged the significant heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago," the Premier said.

"Nevertheless, we strongly believe that it is possible to protect these values of the Archipelago and that industry and heritage may co-exist in the area.

"So while protecting heritage, we need to ensure that it does not constrain current projects, the capacity of industry to expand within agreed boundaries or impact on transport corridors for the facilitation of these industries.

"We are committed to effective management of the heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago and to identifying the most appropriate management regime by engaging with the Commonwealth and other stakeholders.

“It is also essential that industries operating in the Dampier Archipelago are given the opportunity to play a role in the management of the heritage values.”

Mr Carpenter said the State Government was progressing an environment and heritage management strategy, key initiatives of which included:

- establishment of the Dampier Archipelago Council and overarching management plan;
- a Dampier Archipelago cultural heritage management plan;
- heritage surveys over six Burrup Agreement industrial areas;
- archaeological surveys over non-industrial land;
- a management plan for the Burrup non-industrial area; and
- a CSIRO rock art monitoring study.

Also, In January 2002, the State signed the landmark Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement of 2002 with the area’s three Aboriginal native title claimant groups, which provided a range of benefits for the Aboriginal people.

The Premier said that given the economic importance of industry in the Dampier Archipelago to Western Australia and Australia, combined with its significant heritage values, it was critical that the development of an approvals bilateral agreement and a workable management plan was very carefully considered.

“We look forward to working co-operatively with the Commonwealth, industry, heritage interests and indigenous people of the area to achieve an outcome that is satisfactory to all,” he said.
