

National Heritage Listing for the Dampier Archipelago

One of Australia's most important environmental and archaeological regions will be further protected following a decision to place large parts of the Dampier Archipelago, including the Burrup Peninsula on the National Heritage List.

The National Heritage Listing covers sites of outstanding heritage significance, including rock art engravings and standing stone arrangements.

Companies whose Burrup leases include rock art are committed to working around the sites of high heritage value. Where it is not possible, rock art will be carefully relocated and orientated into the natural landscape in consultation with Indigenous communities.

The Dampier Archipelago is home to Australia's second largest tonnage port (Dampier Port), supports thousands of jobs and industry has invested in excess of \$35 billion in resource development projects.

Minister for State Development Eric Ripper said the State Government supported the Federal Government's decision to place the resource-rich area on the National Heritage List.

He said the decision showed the Archipelago's significant heritage can co-exist alongside one of our most strategic industrial areas.

"In January 2003, we signed the landmark Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement with the area's three Aboriginal native title claimant groups," the Minister said.

"At that time we spoke extensively with all the indigenous groups who have an interest in the Burrup area and we recognised then that this area was of vital importance to all those groups."

Mr Ripper said the State Government had remained firmly committed to making the region's heritage values a priority while facilitating the multi-billion dollar industry of the region.

"I am pleased the Federal Government has allowed some room for industry to continue, with respect for the heritage and environmental values of the region," he said.

"We must ensure that both the environment and heritage values continue to be protected and that we consider the interests of industry and the national economy." ■

