

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

Thursday 23 May 2002



## **Shire of Roebourne Opposes Burrup Freehold – suggests Maitland Estate is the answer.**

The Shire of Roebourne is extremely concerned that The Western Australian Government has failed to take into consideration the concerns of local residents in the negotiations with Native Title claimants to settle Native Title Claims over the Burrup Peninsula, Maitland Estate and land earmarked for residential development in Karratha.

Shire President Kevin Richards said he understood the Government has offered “conditional” freehold title to the native title claimants over the area known as ‘The Northern Burrup Peninsula’ as part of settlement of their claims.

“We will not be drawn into Eric Ripper’s spurious argument that the Shire has been updated on the situation almost a dozen times since May 2000, when the first I knew that consideration was being given to a freehold vesting over the Northern Burrup was 9am last Friday (17 May)”

“The Shire regards the Northern Burrup area as having extremely high recreational, aboriginal heritage and environmental conservation values and as such should not be owned by one section of the community but held in trust for the use and enjoyment of all the community,” said Cr Richards.

“While the Shire of Roebourne is very keen to progress \$6 Billion of projects proposed for the area, it is of the view that new projects should be sited at the Maitland Industrial Estate

“Maitland has large areas of land available that satisfies all current and future demand of industrial developers,” he said

Current proposals on the Burrup Peninsula already jeopardise the amenity of Hearsons Cove Beach and there are only limited areas for further expansion on the Burrup.

“We understand that developers of all projects will be subject to enormous site costs due to the challenging terrain of the area, and squeezing future projects into increasingly small valleys will become cost prohibitive” he said.

“The Shire of Roebourne is pro-development, but not at the expense of future generations suffering reduced access and enjoyment of the superb beach and wilderness recreation areas situated close to the townships of Dampier and Karratha.

“The Shire of Roebourne urges the State government, in conjunction with the Federal Government, to encourage relocation of these industries, through the provision of common use infrastructure, to the Maitland Estate.

“It is a false economy to squeeze developments into relatively small, disconnected valleys and to pay a premium for a common user corridor to service those developments.

“What do we do when the Burrup cannot accommodate future industry – hang out a sign saying ‘sorry full up’. At that stage we would need to find funds to develop the infrastructure for Maitland Estate, but at a significantly higher cost than today’s dollars,” concluded Cr Richards.

#### ***MEDIA CONTACT***

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