



23th November 2006.

The Hon. Eric Ripper MLA
Deputy Premier and Treasurer
Government of Western Australia
28th Floor, Governor Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Terrace.
PERTH WA 6000

Via facsimile 08 9222 8799 (5 pages)

Dear Deputy Premier

Thank you for your invitation to meet with you and The Hon. Fred Riebeling MLA on Wednesday, 15th November 2006 at 9.00 am in Karratha.

The two main points of discussion were:

- Accommodation shortage in Shire of Roebourne, and
- Burrup heritage and industrial development strategy.

Accommodation:

You indicated you would push for release of land in the Shire of Roebourne for temporary accommodation, particularly to accommodate builders to enable permanent housing to be built.

The Shire of Roebourne is experiencing severe capacity constraints in areas of social and economic development.

In fact it is so severe we are experiencing some very negative impacts.

It could mean that the expected level of future industrial development in the area may be unwelcomed unless these constraints are quickly resolved.

The single most important constraint is residential accommodation, both availability and affordability.

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Rough estimates suggest that about 2,000 beds are required immediately in the Shire.

Given the state of the resource industry boom, possibly up to another 2000 beds may be required over the next three to five years, pushing the Shire population from around 16,000 to 20,000 plus.

It may take up to five years for the permanent housing supply curve to catch up with the demand curve. In the meantime, demand will have to be met with temporary accommodation facilities.

The factors exacerbating the accommodation shortage are

- availability:
 - of suitable land
 - of building skills
 - of building labour
- affordability:
 - of land
 - of building

Other Constraints:

You indicated you would consider propositions from the Chamber to help solve other capacity constraints. You requested that we consider options to create indigenous skills training and employment.

The Chamber will prepare propositions for you to consider.

Since our meeting, a concept has been discussed with indigenous representatives that could have a major positive impact on local indigenous skill training and employment.

Details of the concept will be advised to you once agreement in principle has been reached.

Burrup:

You indicated you would push to fast track the comprehensive heritage survey work, currently programmed to be completed by 2008, on the designated Burrup industrial precinct.

The lack of good archaeological and anthropological information is probably the single major cause for dissent on the Burrup strategy for heritage conservation and industrial development.

We would request the survey works be extended to include the designated Burrup conservation precinct and adjacent islands.

You stated that your government would maintain its current policy and strategic position concerning industrial development on the Burrup. You requested support from the Chamber for your government's position. We advised you that, in our opinion, the government's position would appear to be becoming increasingly untenable.

You have a copy of the Chamber's position paper concerning the Burrup. The paper makes four calls to action.

Conclusion:

You stated you wanted to keep the economic development and prosperity continuing in Western Australia for as long as possible.

We concur and would welcome the opportunity to assist in achieving this objective.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leann Cooper', is written over a printed name and title.

Leann Cooper
President

Enclosure: Position Paper: National Heritage Listing of the Burrup Peninsula.

cc: The Hon. Fred Riebeling MLA.

Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc

Position Paper

**National Heritage Listing of the Burrup
Peninsula,**

North West Australia

The Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula) has been recommended for National Heritage Listing by the Federal Government. The Australian Heritage Council has completed an assessment of the area and advised Senator Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, that, in their opinion, the area meets the high threshold for inclusion in the National Heritage List. Senator Campbell has invited comments on boundary and management issues before he makes a final decision.

The Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc represents a wide range of businesses with differing interests in the Burrup.

For the past five years, the Chamber has recognised the significant conflicting demands between economic and conservation imperatives including:

- The importance of the resource industry to the local and national economy and the need for major infrastructure works to be built in the area to capitalise on global commodities opportunities.
- The size and global significance of the Burrup rock art precinct and the need to conserve it.

The Chamber advocates both economic developments in the area and heritage conservation on the Burrup. It has been seeking a path forward where both objectives can be achieved.

The Chamber recognises that a comprehensive management plan encompassing industry, heritage and environment issues on the Burrup is urgently required. And unless all stakeholders can come to a mutual agreement on a comprehensive plan, national heritage listing of the Burrup may well happen.

The Chamber believes that management planning for the Burrup is hampered by:

- Lack of comprehensive archaeological and heritage survey works on the rock art and stone arrangements on the Burrup.

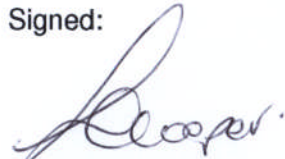
- The potential deterrence factor for further industrial development on the Burrup particularly if a national listing occurs.
- Increasing economic costs of further industrial development.

The Chamber calls on:

- All stakeholders to come together to work out a management plan for submission to Senator Campbell to replace the need for a national listing.
- Stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive impact statement on economic, environmental, social and governance issues.
- The WA State Government to fast track comprehensive survey works on the Burrup
- The WA State Government to identify and develop an alternate nearby site for further downstream processing industries.

For further information please contact Karratha and Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry on (08) 91441999.

Signed:



Leann Cooper
President

7 November 2006