

House: Legislative Assembly- Statement
Date: Tuesday, 28 November 2006
Member: Carpenter, Mr Alan
Subject: DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO - NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING
Page: 8839b - 8839b / 2

DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO - NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

Statement by Premier

MR A.J. CARPENTER (Willagee - Premier) [2.02 pm]: Today I have written to Senator Ian Campbell, federal Minister for Environment and Heritage, outlining the state government's position on the federal government's proposed national heritage listing of the Dampier Archipelago. While initially opposing national heritage listing, as a result of commonwealth action to address our concerns, together with discussions to progress management plans and an approvals bilateral agreement, we now believe that it may be possible to progress a listing that protects the significant heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago without jeopardising industry. The state government has long acknowledged the significant heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago. These have been recognised in the various planning strategies prepared by the state over the past decade. In January 2002 the state signed the landmark Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement with the area's three Aboriginal native title claimant groups. That agreement provides a range of benefits for the Aboriginal people of that area. Indeed, approximately 55 per cent of the Burrup Peninsula is to be vested in the Aboriginal people. We strongly believe that it is possible for industry and heritage to coexist in the Dampier Archipelago.

While protecting heritage, we need to ensure that the management of heritage does not constrain current projects and 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. This will include an agreed management plan. Details of an environment and heritage management strategy were provided in the Western Australian government's submission of March 2006 to the Australian Heritage Council, and this strategy is progressing. Key initiatives of this environment and heritage management strategy are the 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 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation rock art monitoring study.

We believe that the industries that are operating in the Dampier Archipelago must play an important role in the management of the heritage values. It is important that both the state

and the commonwealth engage with those industries effectively to ensure that they have an opportunity to play their part. Given the economic importance of industry in the Dampier Archipelago to Western Australia and Australia, combined with its significant heritage values, it is critical that the development of an approvals bilateral agreement and a workable management plan be considered very carefully. We have been encouraged by public statements by the commonwealth indicating a preparedness to take whatever time is necessary to develop a management regime that will ensure that industry and heritage value coexist prior to a decision on any listing. We support this approach and request that the commonwealth commit to continued discussion with the state. We look forward to working cooperatively with the commonwealth, industry, heritage interests and the indigenous people of the area to achieve an outcome that is satisfactory to all.