



Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-136558

PUBLIC

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
1 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear ^{Brian} Mr Ellis,

PETITION NO 169 - BURRUP PENINSULA AND THE ISLANDS OF THE DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO

Thank you for your letter of 12 November 2012 requesting my comments on the terms of the above petition and the accompanying submissions from the principal petitioner.

On 26 June 2012, Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) met with me to discuss the status of industries on the Burrup and its concerns regarding the reliability of the Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Program. The Department of State Development has also held regular meetings with FARA to discuss a range of concerns FARA has with industrial development on the Burrup.

The Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Programme, conducted from 2004-2008, found no evidence of damage to Burrup Rock Art from industrial activity on the Burrup Peninsula. The Programme was overseen by the independent Burrup Rock Art Monitoring Management Committee and has been peer reviewed by international experts.

On advice from the Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is in the process of preparing an Air Quality Monitoring Strategy for the Burrup Peninsula that will involve collating and analysing all existing data to determine if any additional studies are required. As part of this process, DEC will be preparing a discussion paper which will provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to comment. DEC has liaised with FARA as part of this process and will factor its concerns into the development of the Air Quality Monitoring Strategy.

In 2007, the Commonwealth listed much of the Dampier Archipelago on the National Heritage List. The listing included constructed and zoned infrastructure corridors and industrial areas on the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates. Approval under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is required for any action occurring within, or outside, a National Heritage place that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of the National Heritage place. The Heritage values of the Burrup are also protected under the Shire of Roebourne's Town Planning Scheme (2000). The State is confident that the Heritage values of the Burrup are being managed successfully with industrial development.

Construction of Woodside Energy Limited's Pluto LNG Project, which is objected to in the petition, was completed in early 2012 and involved significant consultation with local Aboriginal people as well as a Conservation Agreement with the Commonwealth Government to protect the National Heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula.

Given the significant ongoing work and management being undertaken by the Local, State and Commonwealth Governments in protecting heritage values on the Burrup Peninsula, I do not believe there is merit in the Standing Committee taking this issue further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Barnett', written in a cursive style.

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER; MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT

11 DEC 2012