

Enquiries to:
Unit 8, 20 Hedland Place
Karratha WA 6714
P: 08 9144 4112
F: 08 9183 8130
E: admin@murujuga.org.au



**MURUJUGA ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION**
ICN: 4629
ABN 51 627 395 274
PO Box 1544

1 August 2016

Hon. Colin Barnett MLA
Premier and Minister for Tourism and Science
1 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier,

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MURUJUGA NATIONAL PARK

As you know, the Murujuga National Park was created in July 2007, with the land being owned in freehold title by Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and leased back to the State at a peppercorn rent for joint management by representatives of MAC and Department of Parks and Wildlife as a national park under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

More and more people are visiting the Murujuga National Park. MAC sees a lot of cultural and nature-based tourism opportunities in this increased visitation that can be added to a Pilbara tourism experience, as is promoted in key guiding documents for future use and management of the Murujuga National Park. MAC is planning to accommodate and manage this increased visitation but there are also risks in increased visitation if the Park is not managed appropriately. I would like to raise with you two matters in relation to the ongoing use and management of the Murujuga National Park:

1. The introduction of legislative powers that will allow MAC to manage the Murujuga National Park;
2. The implications of industry on the Burrup Peninsula for MAC's future plans for the Murujuga National Park.

1. MAC management of the Murujuga National Park

A key principle underlying the BMIEA and the Murujuga National Park Management Plan, 2013 is that all parties should be working towards full *Ngardangarli* (Murujuga people) control and management of the park over time. DPaW staff are working with the Murujuga Rangers to develop their capacity to progressively assume more responsibilities related to the administration, control

and management of the park and that is progressing well but Murujuga Rangers have not been given the legislative power to do this. The intention under the BMIEA and the Management Plan is that Murujuga Rangers will have powers under the *CALM Act* to enforce all relevant laws and regulations to ensure the protection of the significant values of the park. To this point, the Murujuga Rangers have not been given authority to manage the National Park.

2. Implications of industry for MAC's future plans for the Murujuga National Park

Back as far as 1996, the Burrup Peninsula Land Use Plan and Management Strategy recommended boundaries between Conservation, Heritage and Recreation areas and future Industrial precincts. These recommended boundaries were incorporated into Shire of Roebourne Town Planning Scheme No.8 in 2000, which I believe still provides the statutory basis for land development in the area.

Both the BMIEA Implementation Deed 2002 and the Management Agreement between DPaW and MAC provide for recreational facilities and facilitation of recreational activities in the National Park, including the regulation of public access, although only to the extent required to fulfil so much of the demand for recreation by members of the public as is fitting having regard to cultural, heritage, natural, environmental and archaeological values, and the use of land by MAC members. The Management Plan identifies accommodation (eg. camping, semi-permanent safari-tents) as enterprise that would be compatible with the objectives of the Murujuga National Park but notes that at the time of writing, the economic cost and potential impact on values outweighed the development of safari tent accommodation on Murujuga National Park. The Management Plan provides for such facilities to be provided by Ngarda-ngarli enterprises and independent commercial operators under lease.

MAC is reviewing the current direction provided by the Management Plan in relation to access to the northern Burrup Peninsula. MAC is keen to improve the managed accessibility of this area to increase tourism opportunities in the National Park. This would allow for nature-based camp sites to be developed to cater for current and future demand.

MAC has recently been made aware of suggestions of creating industrial buffers on the Burrup Peninsula. MAC notes that such suggestions were made in submissions on the draft Management Plan. MAC is concerned that any proposed buffer will compromise the use and development opportunities within the National Park. It is my understanding that any proposal for a statutory buffer on the Burrup Peninsula would need to comply with the requirements of the WAPC's State Planning Policy No.4.1: State Industrial Buffer Policy. Given the clear guidance set out in key guiding documents for future use and management of the Murujuga National Park, MAC would be very concerned about any possible restrictions on

National Park development plans that align with the guidance agreed by the State Government due to buffer considerations. It is noted that the BMIEA provides for the construction of buildings for office and other facilities for the management of Burrup Non-Industrial Land and a visitors and cultural centre for promoting the commercial enterprises and tourism activities of Contracting Parties relating to the Burrup Non-Industrial Land.

MAC needs to know where the State Government stands on these two matters. Can you please advise the State Government position and plan for addressing these matters. I believe you will be in Karratha and potentially on the Burrup Peninsula later this month. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you as part of your visit to discuss MAC's plans for the Murujuga National Park.

Yours faithfully,

Craig Bonney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc. Hon Bill Marmion MLA
Minister for State Development
Minister.Marmion@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon Donna Faragher MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister.Faragher@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon Albert Jacobs MLA
Minister for the Environment
Minister.Jacob@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister.Collier@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon Brendon Grylls MLA
Member for Pilbara
brendon.grylls@mp.wa.gov.au

Melissa Price MP
Federal Member for Durack
Melissa.Price.MP@aph.gov.au



26 AUG 2016

Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-617526/JH



E-MAILED
24/8/16

Mr Craig Bonney
Chief Executive Officer
Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 1544
KARRATHA WA 6714

Dear Mr Bonney

Thank you for your letter dated 1 August 2016 regarding plans for the future of the Murujuga National Park. I am pleased to hear of the increased visitation and tourism opportunities arising from the joint management of the Murujuga National Park.

1. MAC management of the Murujuga National Park

The Liberal National Government has been pleased to support the development of the capacity of Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) rangers to manage Murujuga National Park. I understand that discussions have also been ongoing between MAC and the Department of Parks and Wildlife in relation to developing a training program to enable MAC rangers to become honorary enforcement officers under section 46 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). I am advised that the honorary enforcement officer provisions of the CALM Act provide a practical basis to manage Murujuga National Park. For example, they provide the power to direct a person to cease unlawful behaviour, to direct them to vacate a campsite, extinguish a fire or leave the national park. I note that Parks and Wildlife has been working with MAC to enable this training and authorisation to take place, and I encourage you to continue these discussions with them.

2. Implications of industry for MAC's future plans for the Murujuga National Park

The Government supports the development of cultural interpretation and tourism opportunities by the MAC within the National Park as identified in the Management Plan. However, as is noted in the Management Plan, it is important that the safety and welfare of visitors, including the risks and safety issues associated with the industrial sites on the Burrup Peninsula, is considered in the management of the National Park and in planning for these opportunities.

I am advised the Department of State Development is working with the MAC and relevant Government agencies to ensure that the risks and safety issues associated with the industrial sites on the Burrup Peninsula are well understood and adequately considered when planning for cultural interpretation and tourism opportunities within the National Park. While these issues should be considered when determining the appropriate location and scale of proposed facilities, the Liberal National Government is not currently proposing to implement a formal buffer on the Burrup Peninsula.

I understand that you will be attending the site visit to Deep Gorge on 25 August 2016.
I look forward to meeting with you then.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER

23 AUG 2016



Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-662752/JH

Mr Craig Bonney
CEO Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
ceo@murujuga.org.au

Dear Mr ^{Craig} Bonney,

Thank you for your time during my recent visit to the Burrup. It was also a pleasure to meet with the Murujuga Rangers. I was impressed by these young people and their professionalism.

I appreciated our frank discussion regarding the protection of rock art, particularly in the context of the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's tourism plans for Conzinc Bay and in bringing forward a nomination for World Heritage Listing.

As we discussed, I am of the view that there should be no further industrial development north of the North West Shelf Project. In this regard, if the Liberal Government is re-elected, it is also my intention to commence the process to transfer Site L of the Burrup Strategic Industrial Area to the conservation estate.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER

01 MAR 2017