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BY:-----

## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-633658/JH

Hon Robin Chappie MLC  
Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region  
PO Box 94  
WEST PERTH WA 6872

*Robin*  
Dear Mr Chappie /

Thank you for your letter dated 21 October 2016 regarding the proposed Murujuga Living Knowledge Centre (MLKC) and for raising your thoughts on the proposed location of the MLKC with me.

The Liberal National Government has been working closely with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) to identify an appropriate location for the MLKC that will give MAC the best opportunity to fulfil its cultural protection, tourism and economic development objectives. It is through these discussions that the Conzinc Bay site has been identified as a priority for the construction of the MLKC and for potential tourism development opportunities.

The rationale for wishing to see the MLKC moved away from Hearson Cove is primarily one of public health and safety, rather than because of the visual effect of the Yarra Technical Ammonia Plant. There are restrictions on where sensitive land uses can be located due to public risk and safety issues associated within industrial sites. The proposed Hearson Cove site is located within 1.5 kilometres of the Yara Nitrates Technical Ammonium Nitrate plant and the Yara Pilbara Fertilisers ammonia plant. Preliminary discussions with relevant State agencies have indicated that the development of the MLKC at Hearson Cove could present an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. These risks are much reduced at the Conzinc Bay location.

In addition to these public health and safety considerations, the location of the MLKC at Conzinc Bay has a number of advantages over Hearson Cove, including:

- Greater flexibility – the design, scale and scope of the MLKC is significantly less restricted at Conzinc Bay. The opportunity exists for MAC to design an iconic building commensurate with both the natural beauty of the area and the significant cultural history.
- Enhanced financial dynamics – by locating the assets together (the MLKC and camp site/other amenities/infrastructure), both the capital and operating costs are reduced, helping to deliver improved financial returns for MAC. Self-sustaining and profitable assets will help MAC deliver on its broader organisational objectives and are essential for MAC to be able to meet the ongoing operating and capital costs of the MLKC.

- Increased tourism appeal – Conzinc Bay and its surrounding area is naturally attractive, has the capacity to rival the beaches bordering Ningaloo reef and is in easy reach of Karratha. The Conzinc Bay location provides MAC with the opportunity to generate further income and expand its tourism enterprises to operate marine-based activities, such as kayak hire or marine tours. Providing a rich visitor experience of the natural beauty and cultural significance of this place will provide greater awareness and appreciation of the value of this area.
- Greater protection for the area – with the MLKC at Conzinc Bay, greater protection of the Murujuga National Park is achievable. The MLKC has the potential to operate as a control point and access centre for visitors to the park. It will provide a hub for an ongoing management presence, which will help mitigate the ongoing and detrimental effects that are currently being experienced. In considering the Conzinc Bay location, MAC has drawn from the Indigenous ecotourism development at Mossman Gorge in Queensland, where the Cultural Centre forms the point of entry and regulates access into the Gorge. Having a single point of entry will assist in maximising camping fees and, if appropriate, entry fees, which would likely increase the viability of the MLKC and MAC's operations in the park.

Having the MLKC and tourism infrastructure grouped together at Conzinc Bay would place the MLKC at the centre of the visitor experience and best support its viability. As MAC will be responsible for the ongoing management and costs of the MLKC, minimising construction and ongoing management costs and maximising efficiency of operations is critical.

The boundaries of the Murujuga National Park and the industrial sites and infrastructure corridors on the Burrup were formalised in the *Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement Implementation Deed* between the three native title claimant groups (as existed at that time) and the State Government in 2003. These boundaries are reflected by the industrial zoning under the City of Karratha's local planning scheme.

As you know, as a result of the 2007 National Heritage listing of much of this area, approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) is required for any action occurring within, or outside, the 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. Given the significant ongoing work and management being undertaken by MAC, the Liberal National Government and the Commonwealth in relation to this matter, I am confident that the heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula are being managed successfully, within the context of industrial development.

I am advised that the Department of Parks and Wildlife has been having ongoing discussions with MAC 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), which will provide a practical basis to manage Murujuga National Park.

The existing National Heritage listing, the protections under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and the joint management with MAC under the CALM Act provide adequate protection for the values of Murujuga. It is my expectation that the Murujuga National Park will be a World Heritage site at some stage in the future.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

15 NOV 2016