



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Petition

Registration No.	57
Title	MARRA PEOPLES LANDS AND SEAS COUNTRY NEAR LIMMEN BIGHT
Presented on	30 November 2011
Presented by	Mr Gerry McCarthy
Referred to	MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES (K Vatskalis)
Date referred	30 November 2011
Response due	2 May 2012
Response received	3 January 2012
Response presented	14 February 2012

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

This petition of the Marra people, who are the Indigenous Traditional owners and custodians of the lands and seas in and near Limmen Bight in the southwest Gulf Country of the Northern Territory, draws to the attention of the House:

- Iron ore slurry pipelines through the proposed Limmen National park, through Marra Aboriginal Lands Trust lands on the Limmen Bight coast, on the seabed of Limmen Bight, and through the intertidal zone claimed by Marra people surrounding Maria Island (Kurrululinya); and
- An iron ore processing plant and export jetty on Maria Island in Limmen bith.

Our land and sea Country are very significant to our people. Our people hold Native Title to lands and seas in this region.

The plans threaten our sacred sites, our dreaming places, the environment, and the wildlife and plants that we hunt and gather.

We strongly oppose this proposal. We are responsible for Country, we speak for Country.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory to reject these plans by Western Desert Resources and Sherwin Iron, and use the Territory's environment, mining, sacred site and other laws to protect our land and sea Country, our sacred sites and dreaming places, the environment, and the wildlife and plants in and around Limmen Bight.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

Response

I can advise that Western Desert Resources has recently announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Xstrata Zinc to investigate the feasibility of gaining access to Xstrata Zinc's McArthur River Mine loading facility at Bing Bong on the Gulf of Carpentaria. Western Desert Resources indicates that it intends to, subject to feasibility and necessary approvals, build an access road of approximately 160 kilometres from the Roper Bar project area to Bing Bong.

Shipping through the established facility (at Bing Bong) would reduce the immediate requirement for investment in new pipeline infrastructure previously proposed as a transport option to Maria Island.

In terms of regulating mining activity, it is important to note that all proposals received by the Department of Resources (DoR) undergo a thorough and transparent environmental assessment process in accordance with the *Mining Management Act* and, where appropriate, the *Environmental Assessment Act*. There is also legislation in place to protect sacred sites, which is the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*.