

Centenary 1891-1991

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Date: 18 July, 1991

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 77114 NG:lp
ldodson18-7

Mr Patrick Dodson
Executive Director
Kimberley Land Council
PO Box 377
DERBY WA 6728

Dear Sir,

**Re: Report of the Ethnographic Survey of Exploration Licence Applications
E04/645, E04/646 and E04/647 in the West Kimberley**

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 1991 and the enclosed report.

The Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee met on 11 July and discussed the issue. The report was examined by an all male Sub-Committee which resolved, on the basis of the report, that the Song Cycle path as delineated by the green dotted lines in Figs 4, 6 and 8, encompass places of importance and significance as defined by Section 5(b) and also 5(a) and (c) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80.

The delineated area contains:

- (1) named places which are part of an important Song Cycle. This Song Cycle constitutes the basis of a major part of traditional Aboriginal law and ceremonial life in the coastal West Kimberley;
- (2) named places which are of totemic significance;
- (3) 6 species of tree which are regarded as having particular spiritual significance according to Aboriginal ceremonial traditions;
- (4) places of archaeological significance.

The Sub-Committee accepted that according to Aboriginal customary law, the extent of the Song Cycle path is defined by geological and botanical features that have been created by (and continue to be associated with) totemic beings.

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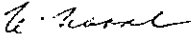
All areas defined as the Song Cycle path are regarded as having importance and significance because of the interconnected nature of this network of totemic significances. The areas have significance under Section 2(a), (b) and (c) and 39(3) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80.

It is, therefore, the Sub-Committee's view that no exploration activity should occur on the areas defined as the Song Cycle path.

Given the Committee's resolution referred to above, the Committee's views are those of the Sub-Committee.

Mr Nicholas Green will attend the hearing on 23 July and will deliver the report and the ACMC's assessment to the Mining Warden.

Yours sincerely,


Vera Novak
Registrar
DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL SITES