



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Mr Derek Recsei
14 Wallace Close
HORNSBY HEIGHTS NSW 2077

Dear Mr Recsei

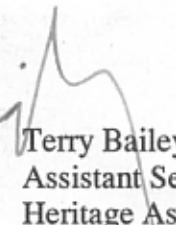
Thank you for your letter of 29 February 2008 to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, concerning nomination of Ningaloo Reef to the World Heritage List. The Minister has passed your letter to me for reply.

The Australian Government is committed to the identification, recognition and protection of Australia's outstanding heritage places. As part of this commitment, the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is preparing a World Heritage nomination of the Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range in partnership with the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation. It is intended that the nomination will be submitted before 1 February 2009.

As you may be aware the Australian Heritage Council is currently assessing a public nomination of Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range to the National Heritage List. The National Heritage List recognises and protects places of 'outstanding heritage value to the nation'. It is expected that the Council's assessment will be completed during 2008.

Should Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range be included in the National and/or World Heritage lists its heritage values will be protected by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). Under the EPBC Act any person taking an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the heritage values of the place, including a tourism development, will require the approval of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

Yours sincerely


Terry Bailey
Assistant Secretary
Heritage Assessment Branch

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