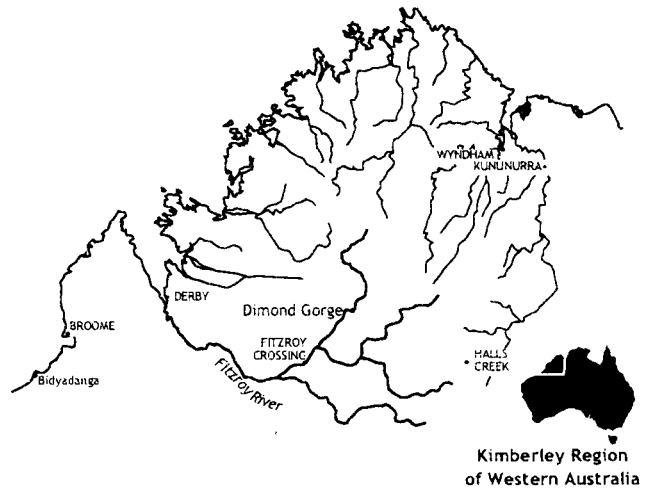


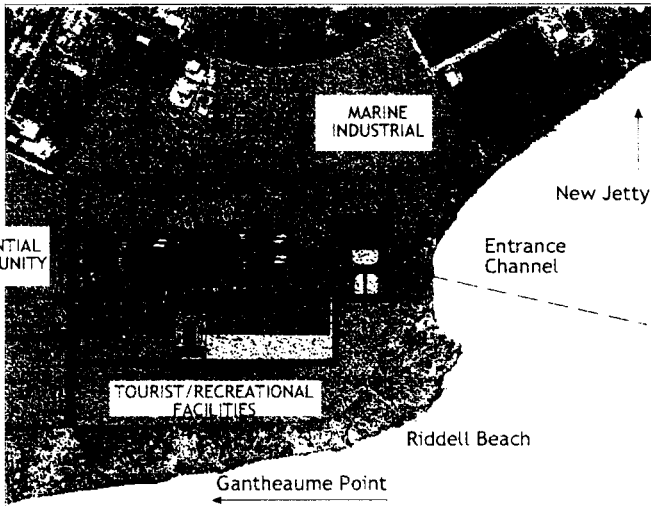


Save the Nature of the Kimberley
environs
KIMBERLEY
 INC

PO Box 309 Broome WA 6725
 ph:(08) 9192 1922 fax:(08) 9192 5538
 after hours ph/fax: (08) 9193 5079 or ph: (08) 9193 5052
<http://www.green.net.au/environs-kimberley/>
 e-mail: envrkimb@broome.wt.com.au



Bulletin No.21 • March 2002



MARINA

RIDDELL POINT FAVOURED BY DEVELOPERS

Map showing proposed inland marina. Note also planned residential and tourist and recreation development.

The Broome Boat Harbour Steering Committee has failed the boating fraternity of Broome. After almost two years of discussions and deliberations and public spending, the Steering Committee has indicated its preferred model and site for a marina at what has become known as Option 4B, an artificial inland basin at Riddell Point. The option was chosen in spite of strong objections by Environs Kimberley on environmental grounds and advice by the Kimberley Land Council that the option was unlikely to be acceptable to traditional owners.

This latest development will not come as a surprise to people who have been following the issue. Ever since the short-listing of sites was completed about a year ago, when four locations were selected, it was evident that the Riddell Point option was the only one the Department of Planning and Infrastructure was seriously considering. The three alternatives were either too expensive, too difficult to engineer or did not meet the terms of reference for the study.

The choice was made at a meeting of the Steering Committee in February, in the absence of several members. The news was met with a mixed response from the Community Reference Group, which was not asked to nominate a preferred site.

Environs Kimberley is totally opposed to the proposal because:

- It is completely unsustainable. It will require the clearing and levelling of at least 11 hectares of previously uncleared land and the excavation of at least 7 hectares. It will result in the removal of all natural landforms in the area, effectively removing or erasing all environmental and cultural values from the site.
- A development in the area would impact significantly on the dune system and the proposed coastal park. There is little scientific information about the environmental values of the area.
- It is unacceptable on aesthetic grounds; the area is considered by the Broome community to be significant, fragile, unique and worthy of preservation.
- It is on or adjacent to an area where a rare species of *Keraudrenia* has been found.
- The introduction of saline water inland is likely to have a detrimental effect on the local hydrology and on the vegetation dependent on it.
- The land is prone to flooding and is an important recharge area for local aquifers. Introducing saline water via a channel and harbour is likely to cause the aquifer to become saline.
- We note the proposal suggests a residential opportunity to the north of

the site. This would entail extensive land-clearing and other environmental damage and cause a substantial increase in visitor numbers to Riddell Beach, Gantheaume Point and the coastal park in general, contributing to further degradation of the area. In any case, the real estate consideration is outside the terms of reference for the study and should not be promoted.

The land in question is mostly unallocated crown land and various reserves. The area is subject to the Rubibi (Combined) native title claim. We understand the Rubibi traditional owners are also opposed to the proposal.

The need for a marina was identified in April 2000, after Cyclone Rosita caused serious damage to vessels and the loss of many boats. EK agreed at the time that a safe harbour should be created for working boats, as a basic workplace right. We are committed to continuing to work with government agencies and other interest groups to find a solution to this problem. We are equally committed to ensuring the environmental values of the Broome peninsula, especially in the vicinity of Riddell Beach, are not compromised.

Maria Mann

e-mail: envrkimb@broome.wt.com.au
 Website: <http://www.green.net.au/environs-kimberley/>