

Govt plans labelled 'paper parks'

BEN JONES

FOUR new marine parks slated for the Kimberley have been labelled "paper parks" by environmental groups and scientists.

Premier Colin Barnett announced the new marine parks, which treble the size of WA's marine parks, last week.

The proposed parks at Camden Sound, Roebuck Bay, Eighty Mile Beach and the North Kimberley cover 2.6 million hectares.

The Prince Regent Nature Reserve in the North Kimberley has been upgraded to a national park and, combined with the new

marine parks, will cover an area half the size of Tasmania.

In a joint announcement with Environment Minister Donna Faragher, Mr Barnett said he had no doubt the parks would gain an international reputation as one of the great wilderness areas in Australia.

Releasing details of the 770,000ha Camden Sound Park, Ms Faragher said two sanctuary zones covering 93,600ha and a whale conservation zone covering 168,000ha would protect the southern hemisphere's biggest humpback whale calving ground.

The announcement was met

Colin Barnett's announcement comes under fire

with derision by environment groups and scientists.

UWA's Centre for Marine Futures director Jessica Meeuwig said the Camden Sound park was akin to a Ferrari with a lawnmower motor.

"They don't actually offer any real protection and my concern is we will look at this announcement and say we've protected the Kimberley, but we actually haven't," she said.

Environs Kimberley director Martin Pritchard said only 13 per

cent of the park would be fully protected, with the rest open to a range of industries and activities.

"The Premier knows poorly designed marine parks offer no real protection - activities like mining, oil, gas and fishing can continue in almost the entire park area," he said.

"This announcement will not protect this stunning marine environment."

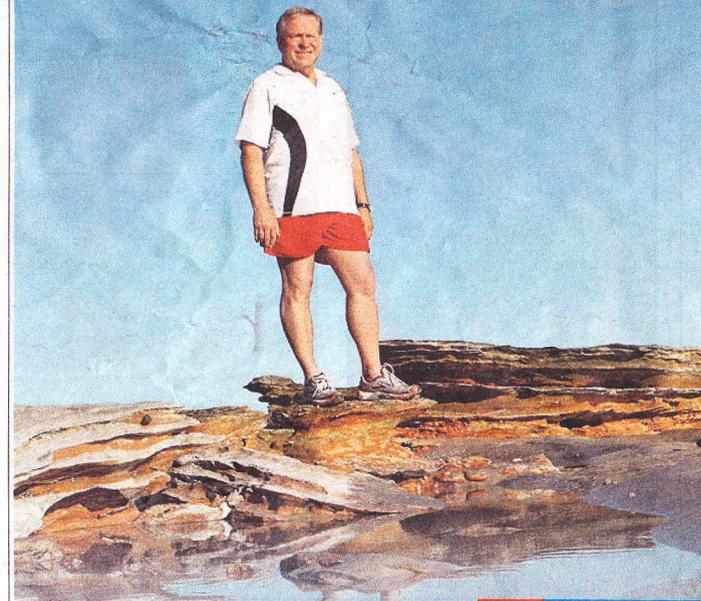
He said 98 per cent of the Kimberley coast remained unprotected after the announcement.

Fishing industry groups were also critical, especially of a lack of consultation by the State Government.

Recfishwest acting executive director Kayne Moyle said the recreational sector's first opportunity to comment on the marine park was after planning was complete.

However the plans were met with praise by tourism groups as well as the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. The Camden Sound plan is open for public comment until February 1.

KIMBERLEY WILDERNESS PARKS



- Will cover an area of land and sea half the size of Tasmania
- Four marine parks, at Camden Sound, the North Kimberley, Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach
- Camden Sound will span 700,000ha, include two no-take zones and a 168,000ha zone for whale conservation
- Specific-purpose zones in Camden Sound for pearling, wilderness fishing, recreational and commercial fishing
- A new national park and additional conservation reserves linking the new Prince Regent National Park with Drysdale River National Park
- Total plan will boost WA marine parks and reserves from 1.5 million ha to 4.1 million



Premier Colin Barnett in the Kimberley yesterday.
Picture: Leon Mead



Government of Western Australia
Drug and Alcohol Office

Opportunity to provide comment on the new Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010-2015

Problematic alcohol and other drug use affects the entire community. The development of a new Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010-2015 is currently being coordinated by the Drug and Alcohol Office.

The proposed goal of the Framework is to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of alcohol and other drug use in the Western Australian community. The draft Framework provides a guide for the development and implementation of interagency alcohol and other drug strategy, policy and services.

You now have the opportunity to have your say about the Framework's broad strategic direction. Comment and feedback is invited from all community members, interested individuals and organisations.

To view the draft Framework and provide your comments, please visit www.dao.health.wa.gov.au or call Ph: (08) 9471 0471 for a copy.

Submissions must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 17 November, 2010.

adcorp F48925



Criminal Law and Road Traffic Matters

There can be serious consequences for people who get charged with criminal or traffic offences in Western Australia. On top of the