

gasbag

lifting the lid on Browse

Are you wondering what all this talk about gas in Broome is about? Do you want to be kept informed? If yes, this **gasbag** bulletin series from Environs Kimberley should help. **gasbag** will come straight to your inbox to:

- tell you in plain English what the Government and multi-national oil companies are planning for the beautiful Kimberley and Broome
- let you know the latest news on Gas.

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oil & gas at Price's Point – light industry?

According to WA Premier Colin Barnett "...it's not a heavy industrial complex." (60 Minutes, June 2009). We'll let you be the judge of that. Here's some of what's proposed:

- 4 gas pipelines coming ashore at James Price Point
- 4 oil pipelines coming ashore at James Price Point
- 4 export pipelines (2 with monoethylene glycol—anti-freeze—going to Scott Reef, 2 with carbon dioxide if Woodside decide they want to bury it)
- 8 LNG tanks, 4 LPG storage tanks, 4 oil tanks
- Construction camp for 3,500 – 6,000 workers
- 1,000 permanent personnel
- Desalination plant
- 1000 – 1,500 ship movements year

Not a heavy industrial complex?

ps

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oil spill fiasco

The so-called oil spill from West Atlas rig off the WA coast is more like a gusher of Timor Sea oil and gas pouring into the ocean day after day. The oil floats, the gas joins all the other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. The detergent used to 'disperse' the oil is toxic. Estimates of the oil flowing into the sea vary from the company's 'visual estimation' of 400 barrels a day, to a possible 2000 barrels a day. The government, which has been underplaying the whole catastrophe from the start, believes the company. And in the tooth fairy. This has been going on for over nine weeks, and efforts to stop it have so far failed. Peter Garrett is counting the dead and damaged birds that happen to have washed up on Ashmore Reef and telling us not to worry. He is not counting dead fish, dolphins, turtles and other sea creatures, nor is he seeing the effects on the seagrass and corals under the ocean. Colin Barnett is saying it's not WA's problem.

WA may so far have escaped the oil. Timor is not so lucky. As early as September 10th, the Jakarta Post ran a story about pollution of the Timor Sea from the spill. Fisherman Gab Oma reported 'thousands of floating dead fish...and even dolphins.' Oma and his mates filled jerrycans with polluted water and took photos to prove their claims. Other reports have confirmed Oma's statements.

Most of those who do give a damn are shocked at the length of time it is taking to plug the leak. Questions to the company, PTTEP Australasia, about safety precautions, such as whether or not a blow-out protector was in use on the rig, remain unanswered.

This is a warning of things to come as Browse Basin is exploited by more and more oil and gas companies. EK is calling for large marine protected areas off the Kimberley coast, which would exclude oil and gas development, as on the Great Barrier Reef.



climate change & magical thinking

One of the problems with the Browse development is the greenhouse gas emissions it will produce: Woodside alone expects to emit 10 to 15 million tonnes a year.

Meanwhile, the major parties argue like infants about the need to act on emissions trading. At the State Liberal Party conference on October 10 in Perth, poor old Turnbull, who does have a brain, tried to persuade his state colleagues (who don't) that Liberals should have a policy on emissions trading. According to journalist Josh Gordon, 'speaker after speaker at the conference expressed scepticism about the science of climate change'. What they don't get is that saying 'I don't believe it' won't make it go away.

Browse fact

Woodside is planning to put the rig that will pump oil and gas to James Price Point on top of Scott Reef.

To see information from Woodside and find a link to the referral to the Federal Government, go here: <http://www.woodside.com.au/Our+Business/Development/Browse/Developing+Browse+Upstream+Development.htm>