



Save the Nature of the Kimberley
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KIMBERLEY
INC



AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 December 2008

Environment and tourism groups support KLC rejection of Woodside offer

Environment groups have welcomed this morning's announcement by the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) that it has rejected an offer from Woodside to Kimberley Traditional Owners regarding the development of a major industrial facility to process LNG on the Kimberley coast.

"We want to confirm our support for Traditional Owner's rights to informed consent around major industrial developments in the Kimberley as well as the need for a scientifically based process for gas hub site selection which includes assessment of sites outside the Kimberley. The KLC decision reflects widespread local community opposition to industrialisation of the Kimberley coast." Environs Kimberley Director Martin Pritchard said.

Wilderness Society WA Kimberley spokesperson Josh Coates said: "We are appalled that Woodside appears to be opportunistically using the State government's abandonment of due process by making an offer that is not fair or equitable or on par with other similar agreements.

"We share the KLC's view that sustainable tourism is a very attractive alternative to this form of development - and there are already many local tourism businesses, including Indigenous tourism businesses - that would be severely harmed by fossil fuel industrialization."

Conservation Council of WA Resources Project Officer Tim Nicol said "It is completely unacceptable that Traditional Owners would be expected to sign away heritage rights without full information. A transparent and comprehensive assessment is the only way that anyone can be expected to make a decision about something as important as locating an LNG hub in a place as special as the Kimberley. This announcement only strengthens our view that the Kimberley looks increasingly unlikely to be a suitable location for large scale industrial LNG development."

Save the Kimberley spokesman, Robert Vaughan, also welcomes the KLC's rejection of Woodside's offer of cash for Country and Mr Bergmann's suggestion that eco tourism could serve Traditional Owners better than the hydrocarbon industry. "Traditional Owners reap long term prosperity and peace of mind by embracing cultural and nature based tourism. No amount of money can heal the heart break of seeing Country put to the bulldozer."

Australian Conservation Foundation said the KLC, in rejecting the Woodside offer, had made clear that it was unacceptable for Kimberley Traditional Owners to be expected to write off Indigenous heritage values in order to seal a deal. ACF's Acting Northern Australia Program Manager Justin McCaul said "Any demand that Kimberley Traditional Owners forgo the right to protect their cultural heritage before a specific site has been identified and assessed is not acceptable. Kimberley Indigenous people and the wider community must know what heritage values are likely to be lost before an informed decision can be made."

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NOTE: Contact TWS to view video footage of humpback whales swimming past the Premier's preferred LNG hub site at North Head visit or for general information see www.kimberleyactnow.org
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