



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

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Gas deal likely to be shelved– impacts on threatened species too great

A Broome based environment group, Environs Kimberley, believes that the environmental impacts on threatened species from a proposed massive industrial development on the Kimberley coast would be so great that the project will be shelved, despite the in-principle agreement between traditional owners, government and industry.

Environs Kimberley Director, Martin Pritchard said “The massive blasting and dredging of millions of tonnes of reef and seagrass for a 5km breakwater and industrial port would be an environmental disaster for marine life off the internationally significant Kimberley coast.”

“We’re talking about a marine wonderland that’s home to a number of threatened species, such as turtles, Dugong, Snubfin Dolphin and Humpback Whales. The area also has a significant diversity and abundance of fish, including Salmon, Spanish Flag, Bluebone and the iconic Clownfish.” Environs Kimberley Director, Mr Pritchard said.

“Humpback whales swim past James Price Point every year to their feeding grounds in Antarctica after calving and breeding in the Kimberley. This population is thought to be one of the most important Humpback populations on the planet, a massive port and breakwater could threaten their survival” Mr Pritchard said.

“Dugong, an internationally threatened species, have been found in the James Price Point area, where they were probably feeding on seagrass.” Mr Pritchard said.

“A Green Turtle, classified as ‘Endangered’ on the international red list of threatened species, was recently tracked by WWF from East Java to the Dampier Peninsula in the vicinity of the proposed industrial development.”

“This would be like putting a massive industrial port like Newcastle on the Great Barrier Reef, it’s a potential environmental disaster.”

“A 3,000 hectare LNG precinct would involve a huge amount of vegetation clearing and could devastate remnant rainforests in the area.

“We believe the project will not go ahead given the huge impacts it would have on threatened species off the Kimberley coast. We’re calling on Woodside and its joint venture partners BP, Shell, Chevron and BHP to be environmentally responsible and process their gas at an industrial site outside the Kimberley.”

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