



Save the Nature of the Kimberley
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Media Release

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Secrecy surrounds Kimberley LNG project

The WA Government is keeping its plans for a Kimberley LNG processing plant secret and providing misleading information to the public, said Broome-based conservation group Environs Kimberley Director, Martin Pritchard.

A request by Environs Kimberley for a map of the proposed sites was refused.

“In a meeting at the Department of State Development’s Broome office we saw a map showing a proposed industrial site and deepwater port at Quondong Point, just north of Broome. We asked for a copy but were refused.”

This site, a major recreation area for the town and a place of Aboriginal cultural significance, was previously ruled out by the WA Government’s Northern Development Taskforce.¹ The Taskforce also considered that an industrial hub would adversely affect the pearling industry. The proposal would require the blasting of reefs and the seabed several kilometres out to sea for a deepwater port and dredging would be undertaken every year, with serious consequences for the marine environment.

A heavy industry site would require the clearing of up to 3,000 hectares of pindan woodland, which contains threatened ecological communities as well as threatened species. Bilbies, listed as vulnerable by Conservation International, have recently been sighted in the vicinity.

Environs Kimberley is also concerned about the Department of State Development’s plans² for the large-scale industrialization of the Kimberley, with plans for an aluminium smelter and refinery, a lead smelter requiring lead exports through Broome, zinc, coal and mineral sands mining, as well as a petrochemical and plastics industry, should the gas come onshore.

The Premier named James Price Point as his preferred site before Christmas, following a visit there; he did not go to Quondong Point.

“It appears the government is pushing secretly for a new site, at the same time that negotiations are going on between Woodside and traditional owners about a site at James Price Point” Mr. Pritchard said.

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ATTACHMENT



Proposed area for Kimberley LNG hub
For high resolution photo contact Martin Pritchard

**¹Northern Development Taskforce, Site Evaluation Report, Part A, September 2008
Page 3**

Quandong Point

The site is recognised as technically viable for development though not without having significant impact on the pearling industry. Development would also present significant pressures and challenges on the tourism infrastructure and the character of Broome as a tourism destination. Quandong Point is a major recreation area for Broome residents and is of considerable Aboriginal cultural significance.

It is recommended this site not be subject to further consideration due to the proximity of more viable sites further north along the same coastal area.

²Regional Minerals Program - Developing the West Kimberley's Resources - Main Report
August 2005 WA Department of Industry and Resources funded by the Australian Governments Regional Minerals Programme.

Medium Growth Scenario:

“In line with requirements of the State Agreement Act covering the Mitchell Plateau deposit, the scenario assumes an alumina refinery will be established in Western Australia within three years of mine development. The location of the refinery will be close to a competitive source of energy (gas). If located in the Kimberley, then the most likely locations are assumed to be near Derby or Broome...”
(Page 96)

“This scenario also includes the development of the Admiral Bay lead and zinc deposit located south of Broome.” (Page 96)

“The scenario assumes the development of Browse Basin gas including bringing gas to the mainland. The primary reason for doing so would be to feed an onshore LNG plant, plus a transcontinental pipeline designed to bring gas to the Eastern States of Australia. This pipeline would also service minerals and energy developments in the West Kimberley including the alumina refinery and a gas-to-liquids processing facility...” (Page 96)

“It is assumed that gas would come onshore somewhere in the region of Dampier Peninsula and Yampi coastline because they are the closest mainland location to the Browse Basin. This minimises sub-sea pipeline capital costs.” (Page 96)

High Growth Scenario:

“For the minerals sector, it assumes the development of an aluminium smelter in the vicinity of the alumina refinery and a zinc smelter close to the Admiral Bay development.” (Page 97)

“Additional gas development would include the alumina smelter and zinc smelter as customers in addition to the development of a GTL (gas to liquids) and ethylene industry.” (Page 97)

“It also assumes a floating LNG facility from 2015 (in addition to the onshore plant)...” (Page 97)

“Bauxite is mined and crushed at Kalumburu and Mt Leeming and exported elsewhere for processing via a basic load out facility close to the mine.” (Page 98)

“Bauxite is refined to form alumina and exported elsewhere for smelting from a purpose built ship loading facility close to the mine/transported by road to the Port of Wyndham/Derby. Refinery is located close to onshore gas pipeline near Derby or Broome” (Page 98)

“Lennard Shelf operations are re-opened. Lead and zinc is mined and processed on site before being transported via the Great Northern Highway to the Port of Derby for refining/smelting elsewhere.” (Page 98)

“Admiral Bay deposit is developed with lead and zinc mined and processed on site before being transported via the Great Northern Highway to the Port of Broome for refining/smelting elsewhere.” (Page 98)

“Gas is bought onshore for electricity generation to service one or more significant energy users such as an alumina refinery, aluminium smelter or lead smelter.” (Page 99)

“Transcontinental pipeline - Customers along the way could include a lead smelter and alumina refinery/smelter in the West Kimberley but could also link into towns and resource developments further inland.” (Page 99)

“GTL. Gas bought onshore to service a lean gas-based industry. Products are then transported elsewhere through a sophisticated port facility.” (Page 99)

“Ethylene. Gas bought onshore to service a petrochemical industry. Products are then transported elsewhere through a sophisticated port facility” (Page 99)

Link to Executive Summary:

http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/Documents/Industry%20Consultation/Regional%20Minerals%20Program/Developing%20the%20West%20Kimberley's%20resources/RMP_Developing_the_West_Kimberley's_Resource_Exec_Sum.pdf