

gasbag

lifting the lid on Browse

community?
what community?



- Are you wondering what all the talk about gas in the Kimberley is about? Do you want to be kept regularly informed?
- The **gasbag** bulletin will cut through the complexity, technical terms and language of spin, to provide clear information and updates on developments with the Gas.
- This 2nd issue includes a brief overview of the social impact assessment process, in particular the problems with the consultations, and details about the 2 forums on this week that ALL of the community are able to attend.
- If you would like to be on our email list for the Gasbag series, or if you want to unsubscribe, please e-mail envrkimb2@westnet.com.au

FROM JAMES PRICE POINT TO THE KIMBERLEY
— with love and destruction



Discussion on the gas precinct is not just about what happens to Price's Point and the Dampier Peninsula — where the Government is trying to keep it focussed — but about the future of the Kimberley as a whole.

James Price Point
Photo: Rod Hartvigsen
<http://www.murranji.com.au/>

find out!

The Department of State Development is holding an open day this **Thursday 17 September** from 2-6pm at its office at Woody's Arcade, next to Streeter's jetty, Dampier Terrace, Chinatown

ps If you like **gasbag**, please circulate far and wide.



Social Impact Assessment — Opaque process, but we can see through it!

In 2008, work began on assessing how an LNG hub might affect the natural environment around James Price Point, the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Price's Point and the Dampier Peninsula, and the communities of Broome and the Peninsula. Such studies are required by State and Federal law.

The State Government expects to release a Strategic Assessment Report in January 2010, with a 28-day period to comment, just when everyone in Broome is away: an old trick by governments not welcoming feedback. The Report will be accompanied by at least 69 associated reports as well as 60 guidance statements, legislative and policy instruments and documents and international conventions that apply to the proposal. This will mean reading, processing and analysing an average of 4 documents per day over 4 weeks in order to provide comment!

So what's the problem?

Consultations with 'community stakeholders' are a necessary part of the Government's social impact assessment process (SIA).

In Broome, little public information has been made available about the SIA — the timeframes, who is running and taking part in it, what criteria are being used, and when and how local people can comment and ask questions.

Did you know that 'consultations' have been held on: health, education, emergency services, housing, employment and culture, sport and recreation, and Sense of Place? Neither did most people. The groups or individuals invited to each of these meetings were hand-picked, and requests to attend from numerous Broome residents who weren't invited were rejected, as were our requests for information about the selection process and who the lucky participants were. You may be surprised that EK wasn't asked to any of them. The Chamber of Commerce was.

gasfact

The Government has not yet held a single Social Impact Assessment community meeting.

gas-spin

The only source of detailed information has been the Department of State Development's website, which strong men have failed to wade through. Moreover, the website takes the development as given — eg: 'the precinct will be established following...' and '...is likely to be constructed as a staged process...'

(see <http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/6614.aspx>)

Surely consultation means finding out what the public thinks?

find out more!

SHIRE OF BROOME'S COMMUNITY FORUM 18 - 19 September

Given this is the first occasion that ordinary people have been allowed in, we are making a call for as many of you to go along as possible.

The Shire of Broome's community forum, which the State Government got postponed in March, is now scheduled for 18 - 19 September at BRACs, with presentations from 10.30 to 12.30.

gagged!

Go and find out more about what is being proposed for our region. But remember: the public have been gagged and are NOT allowed to ask questions or the presentations will be closed down!