



# gasbag

lifting the lid on Browse

## 120 days & counting down

### or How to put the cart before the horse

On 2nd December, the Federal and State Governments issued an ultimatum to the Browse Basin joint venture partners, Woodside, BHP, BP and Shell. The JV partners were given 120 days to agree to use James Price Point as the site of their LNG processing hub, or find another site where Browse gas could be developed more quickly, if they want to have their permits renewed. They have been told to spend \$1.25 billion on developing the site in the next two and a half years. They would then have to make a financial investment decision by mid-2012 (seems that you develop a site [read: ruin the landscape] and *then* decide if you are going to use it).

Don Voelte, Woodside's CEO, is ecstatic, but the partners have not commented. They are known to prefer to take their gas to the Pilbara, to the existing North-west Shelf LNG plant. EK is interested to see how the partners respond to such bullying by governments.

### Questions from gasbag

- What's the hurry?
- How can the JV's make a decision before the environmental reports have been presented and before approvals have been given?
- Where is Environment Minister Peter Garrett (we heard he had been trampled under the hooves of his fellow ministers as they rushed from the Cabinet room)?
- If the JV partners lose their permits, who will take them up?

**gasbag has its money on China.**

ps



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## gas spinoffs

We have been promised so many benefits from the LNG development we must all be dancing with excitement. A couple of them have become apparent already: the near-doubling of the population of Broome with the forthcoming development by Landcorp of Broome North, from here to the rubbish tip, and the huge industrial site planned for the former Environmental and Cultural Corridor behind Reddell Beach. Picture Kavite Road with heavy industry all the way along. Goodbye gubbinge trees, possums, birds and other beings; now watch the rare and endangered sub-species of *Karadudrenia* disappear.

If that land was good enough to be designated an environmental and cultural corridor under Town Plan Four, what has changed? Where have the environmental and cultural values gone? Trampled underfoot along with our environment protection laws and ministers? Sacrificed to the god Mammon?

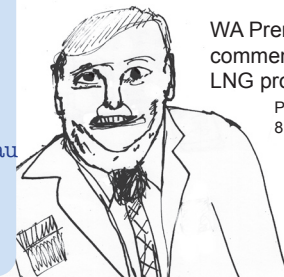
### Reddell Beach petition link

Check *What's ON What's NEW?* on ek's website: <http://www.environskimberley.org.au/whatson.htm>

## Barnett's bon mot

Where else in a first world economy would a 100 per cent overseas-owned project get to develop on an A-class reserve, with species that exist only on that island, anywhere on the planet? It would not happen in the United States, it would not happen in Europe, but it's happening here. And it's a good thing that it is happening.

WA Premier Colin Barnett commenting on the Gorgon LNG project on Barrow Island.  
Petroleum Club, Perth  
8 September 2009.



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.



### MONTARA OIL & GAS SPILL what went wrong?

The oil and gas spill we wrote about in our last issue is over now. The rig leaked unknown quantities of oil and gas for ten weeks and, after four failed attempts to block the leak, burst into flames. Surprisingly, the leak was then blocked. So ended Australia's worst ever oil rig spill, but the effects will be felt by our marine ecosystems for a long time.

### Questions from gasbag

- What caused the blow-out?
- How extensive was it?
- What damage was done?
- Will Martin Ferguson release the report on the leak to the public?
- What will become of the burnt-out rig—will it be towed ashore and disposed of responsibly, or will it be scuttled at sea, to cause further pollution?
- How will our ocean and coast be protected from further spills?

**We have a right to know.**