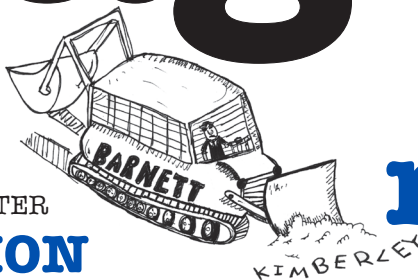


gasbag

lifting the lid on Browse



busting myths ABOUT LNG

COLONISING THE KIMBERLEY NEXT CHAPTER COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

All seemed quiet for a while on the Gas front, but a lot was going on behind the scenes. Then, one day, the Premier decided to put his hoof in it. Now read on...

After a lot of blustering, Bulldozer Barnett finally carried out his threat to acquire by compulsion the land and offshore site he has set his heart on for a gas and oil refinery at James Price Point.

This move, which BB is trying to pass off as 'normal procedure', has been greeted with outrage by all parties: the KLC, which wanted to complete its tortuous process of negotiations with Traditional Owners; TOs both for and against the development, because it tramples on their rights; environmentalists such as ourselves, who oppose the refinery for the serious harm it will do to the land and sea life, but also support the rights of TOs. Even the Tweedlelab opposition managed to pipe up with a feeble protest.

In April last year, Mr Barnett didn't think compulsory acquisition was such a good idea, since Woodside and JV partners were unlikely to maintain interest without the agreement of the TOs: "My judgment at the moment is that there would be little point in that, because there won't be a proponent (for the gas hub). We would be applying it to a piece of land that would never be used," BB said.

Woodside must have toughened up since then. No walking away now, Mr Voelte?

As KLC boss Wayne Bergmann explained, '...compulsory acquisition...is about taking away Aboriginal people's Native Title rights and interest in a piece of land for the purpose of a big mining company making loads, lots and lots of money.'

Mick Dodson: 'I think compulsory acquisition is...another act of colonialism, it's another theft of our land, it's another invasion.'

Myth: LNG is a clean fuel.

Natural gas is a fossil fuel containing somewhat less carbon than oil or coal. However, compressing natural gas to liquid form (LNG) is carbon intensive. Huge volumes of carbon dioxide and methane are emitted during extraction and processing. Oil, known as condensate, is always extracted with gas. It is estimated that LNG produces at least 70% of the carbon emissions of brown coal (the worst emitter).

Myth: LNG is a transition fuel, taking us from coal and oil to renewable energy.

Rot. Even as we are discussing the proposed gas refinery for our coast, Rey Resources and other companies are proposing to mine thermal coal in vast, open-cut mines in the west Kimberley. There is a worldwide increase in the demand for coal, especially from China and India. Australia is the world's biggest producer of coal. We are selling all we have of everything, and to hell with the future.

Myth: It will take too long for renewable energy to meet our needs.

Not so. Researchers at the University of Melbourne and the Energy Research Institute have shown that, with political will and significant business investment, we could meet 100% of our stationary energy needs through renewable resources — mainly concentrated solar and wind power — by 2020. The Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan Synopsis can be found on: http://media.beyondzeroemissions.org/ZCAStationary_Energy_Synopsis_20June10.pdf

Myth: Indigenous young people will get jobs at a gas hub at James Price Point.

What jobs? LNG refineries employ highly skilled and experienced workers, most of whom will fly in and fly out, as Mr Barnett himself has stated.

THE GREAT BIG NUMBER FUDGE

BB has repeatedly assured us that he was acquiring only 2,500 hectares of land at JPP. Under dogged questioning from Greens MP Robin Chapple, MLC, Mr Barnett finally had to admit that the area to be acquired is 7,457 hectares. Big margin of error there, Mr B.

GEOFF COUSINS JOINS THE FRAY

Successful anti-Gunns activist, businessman Geoff Cousins, has taken sides against the LNG refinery at JPP. He should be able to bend a few ears in the business world.

JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS — SIGNS OF DISSENT

Michael Yeager, BHP's petroleum head, recently expressed doubt about the wisdom of building a new LNG refinery on the Kimberley coast, which, he says, could cost upwards of \$US25 billion (Shell, another reluctant investor, suggests \$43 billion). Mr Yeager would prefer to save the Browse gas to backfill existing plants in the Pilbara when the North-west Shelf reserves run low. Woodside disagrees — but then, BHP is considering taking over Woodside.

Mr Yeager also mentioned that Browse gas contains a high level of carbon dioxide — the major greenhouse gas. That's nice, dear.