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**Broome Shire Council decision ignored in Woodside ruling**

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The Broome Shire Council refused to endorse recommendations to the State's Development Assessment Panel for a decision on Thursday. The recommendations from Shire staff were to approve an application by Woodside for retrospective and new approvals for work at James Price Point, site of a proposed gas refinery.

A State appointed panel assessed the proposal on Friday and approved the application despite the Shire's refusal to endorse it.

Development Assessment Panels were instigated by the Liberal National Government to assess development applications valued at over \$3 million and they have the power to ignore Local Government decisions.

The Development Assessment Panel is made up of five members. Three are government appointed Mr Paul Kotsoglo, Dr Gary Middle, Ms Rachel Chapman and two are Shire Councilors, Councilor Graeme Campbell and Councilor Jenny Bloom. Ms Rachel Chapman stood aside due to a conflict of interest.

"This is a classic example of the disempowering of Local Government and its elected representatives by the Liberal National Government." Martin Pritchard, Director of Environs Kimberley said.

"The Shire of Broome refused to endorse a report on a Woodside development application and the very next day the Development Assessment Panel ignored this refusal and approved the proposal." said Mr Pritchard.

There was confusion on the ability of the DAP's to make a decision because they had not received a 'responsible authority' report from the Shire of Broome. The Shire President Graeme Campbell voted against the DAP assessing the application and expressed concerns about the legality of the process.

"The wishes of the community were ignored and the Shire of Broome has been rolled. We are seeking legal advice on the DAP decision before the bulldozers roll into the Kimberley again." Mr Pritchard said.

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