

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM

Minister For Meeting

Min ID: B09/83

MEETING WITH DON HENRY AND WAYNE BERGMANN ON THE KIMBERLEY LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) PRECINCT

Purpose: To meet with the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) and Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) to discuss the strategic assessment process for the Kimberley LNG precinct for the processing of the Browse Basin gas reserves and engagement with Indigenous and conservations groups.

Meeting Arrangements:

Date: 11 February 2009
Time: 16:30
Venue: Parliament House M1 23
Present: Mr Wayne Bergmann, Chief Executive Officer, KLC and Mr Don Henry, Executive Director, ACF
Adviser: Tracey Winters, (Ferguson)
Dept Officer: Bob Pegler, A/g Head of Division, Resources

Recent Dealings: You last met with the KLC on 9 September 2008 to discuss issues relating to indigenous engagement; funding and Commonwealth involvement in the precinct development (B08/2403 refers).

Background: The Commonwealth Government has been working with the Western Australian (WA) Government to undertake a joint strategic assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to identify a site suitable for an LNG processing precinct in the Kimberley. On 23 December 2008 the Premier of WA, the Hon Colin Barnett MLA, announced James Price Point as the preferred site for an LNG precinct. There has been ongoing consultation throughout the process with industry, local communities, traditional landowners, tourism operators and non-government organisations (NGOs) including environment and conservation groups and the KLC in determining the site.

The Department is represented by Mr Bob Pegler (A/g Head of Resources Division) on the WA Government Negotiation Committee (GNC). Action minute (B09/242) of 5 February 2009 provided an update on the development of the LNG precinct, including native title matters indigenous engagement and the Commonwealth's involvement.


Key Issues: The Kimberley region has significant environmental and heritage values. The next stage in the strategic assessment will involve detailed site specific studies and the development of a management plan for the LNG precinct. Final decisions on approval of the development are still expected in April 2010.

The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has provided informal advice regarding the key concerns under the EPBC Act. According to DEWHA possible activities that may result in impacts on EPBC matters at James Price Point include, but are not limited to, dredging, construction of port and associated infrastructure, shipping movements and land clearing. Further information relating to the environment assessment process is at **Attachment A**.

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NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS


Martin Ferguson 9/2/2009