



Eric Ripper
Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for State Development

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Minister heartened by early Kimberley consultations

Portfolio: State Development

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State Development Minister Eric Ripper met environmentalists and other interested groups in Broome today to discuss the next stages of identifying possible locations for a gas processing hub in the region.

Members of the groups had previously met in a workshop with the Northern Development Taskforce to detail their concerns about gas processing from the Browse Basin gas reserves off the Kimberley coast.

Mr Ripper said the consultation over the location of a gas processing hub had started very well and that discussions had provided an invaluable backdrop to the upcoming site selection process.

"I am encouraged by the level of willingness and commitment shown by people to engage with the Northern Development Taskforce in this important process," he said.

"The State Government has an opportunity to create a model for community benefits, sustainable development and improved conservation outcomes through the work of the taskforce, and their views and those of the broader community are central to this process.

"We will be talking to industry, environmentalists, the indigenous community, marine tourism operators and the general public in the coming months.

"We're also talking to the Commonwealth departments about jointly conducting a strategic regional environmental assessment aimed at identifying and improving the protection of the environmental and heritage values of the region."

The Minister said he was confident the policy framework for the site selection process would ensure the protection of environmental and heritage values, while providing good economic outcomes for the entire community.

Minister's office: 9222 8788