

## Speak to traditional owners: KLC

By DALE MILLER

THE Kimberley Land Council has voiced concerns that Greens leader Bob Brown's stance on gas development in the region could limit options for traditional owners.

Mr Brown warned against allowing large corporations to compromise the Kimberley coastline, which he described as magnificent, as part of a campaign visit to Perth earlier this month.

But KLC executive director Wayne Bergmann said the council would not support inappropriate development and urged Mr Brown to speak with traditional owners in the Kimberley.

"Mr Brown has long been a friend of Aboriginal people and of the Kimberley environment and we urge him to come and talk with us and understand the severe reality of our people's lives before he supports a path that limits our options," he said.

"The right development package can deliver a sustainable future for indigenous people in the Kimberley including training and jobs, environmental sustainability and protection of cultural sites.

"Traditional owners know better than anyone the value of the Kimberley coast and we are the best people to decide how devel-

opment there proceeds."

Corporations including Inpex and Woodside are looking to build LNG plants to exploit the gas reserves of the Browse Basin.

Mr Brown said he was happy to talk with the KLC but stressed the need to avoid a repeat of Woodside's Pluto gas project where he claimed the State Government had failed to protect heritage and environmental values.

"The whole thing is that the gas developments have to include the traditional owners left out of mega developments all around the nation," he said.

"They're the first port of call for discussion for anything when it comes to working out outcomes for the Kimberley."



**WAYNE Bergmann.**