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MEDIA RELEASE

Greens: Kimberley needs comprehensive plan

The Greens today cautiously welcomed the announcement by Environment Minister, Peter Garrett of a strategic assessment of the Kimberley, but stressed that a comprehensive long-term planning approach was needed.

“The Greens have been calling for a regional development strategy for the Kimberley for some time,” said Senator Rachel Siewert today.

“It is crucial that the planning process is comprehensive – that it considers all types of industrial development - not just gas projects. “

The planning process must properly engage with all the stakeholders - including traditional owners and local communities ... and give proper consideration to understanding and protecting the unique environment of our Kimberley,” she said.

“The Kimberley is part of the last great Savannah in the world, and its coast is one of the most magnificent on the planet. I have no doubt of its World Heritage value.”

“We are extremely concerned about industrialisation of this unique environment. We need to ensure appropriate sustainable development of the Kimberley.”

“We want to see a single hub that caters for all industries, not just gas projects. We cannot afford to identify and develop a hub site that cannot also handle the siting and transport needs of downstream industries, said Senator Siewert.”

“We do not want to repeat the mistakes of the Pilbara” she concluded.



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