



North-west gas projects under the spotlight

Posted Thu Mar 13, 2008 3:08pm AEDT

The Western Australian Chamber of Minerals and Energy has hosted a meeting in Broome with United States officials, resource company Woodside and local authorities about the future of the north-west's gas projects.

The US ambassador to Australia, Robert McCallum, the US consul general to WA, Kenneth Chern, and both the Broome and Derby West Kimberley shires attended the meeting.

Chamber president David Parker says it was an important opportunity for local and international authorities to discuss the potential benefits of the proposed Browse Basin gas projects.

"The engagement of the local government leadership is very important at this early stage just to I suppose get an understanding and ownership of these project dimensions ... understand the international significance of the development of the Browse Basin and I suppose look for opportunities of how our industry can engage and work closely with our operating communities," he said.

The Shire of Derby-West Kimberley hopes it will benefit from downstream processing if the projects go ahead.

Shire president Elsia Archer says Point Torment, near the local port, would be an ideal location.

"It would be really good for that to be a land base or a service base, but also for the 'downstreaming' that would come out of a hub and there will be a whole lot of other industries that would come from that hub and hopefully we can encourage that to happen at Point Torment," she said.