

# Gas taskforce meets

THE full gas development taskforce of Aboriginal traditional owners met in Broome last week.

They consist of representatives elected by their claim groups to consider gas development off the Kimberley coastline. It was the first of a series of meetings planned for coming months. The meeting was part of a comprehensive consultation the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) will hold to ensure the groups are able to make an informed decision on gas development.

"This taskforce is made up of people elected by their

native title claim groups to represent local views and concerns and bring back information on the potential gas development," KLC executive director Wayne Bergmann said.

"Members have been drawn from 13 native title claim groups along the Kimberley coastline, following more than 20 meetings already conducted.

"Taskforce members will be responsible for ensuring their claim groups have all the information they need to make decisions on gas development.

"Following last week's ini-

tial meeting with only traditional owners, the taskforce will hear directly from industry, state and federal government, environment groups and other stakeholders.

"The consultation is a complex process and requires time, because so much is at stake.

"If it is not done properly the consequences will be significant.

"Once the consultations are complete, traditional owners will be able to engage with the state and developers on the suitability of possible hub locations." Mr Bergmann said.