

In principle support for NDT from Save The Kimberley

Monday 7th July

The Save The Kimberley (STK) campaign today welcomed the interim report from the Northern development Taskforce (NDT) with support for one of the nine short listed sites for a LNG Hub.

STK chairperson Peter Tucker said "The Gourdon Bay site falls in line with what we stand for. It is South of Broome, it can deliver benefits to all Indigenous people of the Kimberley, and it could be the right compromise if it stacks up environmentally. We will never support Japanese oil and gas developer INPEX'S Maret Island proposal . It was ill conceived and fatally flawed from its inception. Our sources, as well as rumours nation wide, suggest that INPEX are going to Darwin anyway. INPEX should stop playing off governments and come clean about their intentions."

"The STK campaign is about more than one LNG plant. There are numerous other huge industrialisation projects for the region that are currently on the drawing boards of Australian and multinational resources companies. Iron ore exploration on Irvine island. Uranium exploration and its inevitable exploitation. ARC energy's push into the edge of the Canning basin, and the list goes on. These projects, taken together or individually, threaten an area that is widely regarded as one of the last remaining true wilderness areas left in the world."

STK said that it is now putting the proponents of multi-billion dollar gas, bauxite and alumina projects planned for the North Kimberley on notice that the campaign to preserve the environmental, cultural and heritage values of the entire Kimberley region would continue at pace.

"We will not stand by and watch the region stripped, pillaged and ultimately discarded in the same way the Pilbara region has been," Mr Tucker said.

"Public interest and momentum is high, both nationally and internationally, and it will only get higher. We will be ramping up our campaign for national and world heritage listing for the region."

STK also said that it would continue to pressure the Western Australian Government “to make the right decision” when it comes to locating a proposed LNG hub well away from areas of rich cultural significance and ecological sensitivity. Peter Tucker said that sticking “a dirty great hub, alumina plant or mine anywhere near the pristine Kimberley would become an increasing political nightmare for any government or interested company.

Peter Tucker said that the STK campaign is not anti-development, and that it recognises the need to meet growing world demand for resources and the need for economic growth. But it remains “staunchly opposed” to developments that will short-change the natural and heritage values of the region, and a process that is expedited to meet the whims of industry.

Mr Tucker also reiterated STK’s support for Federal Minister Peter Garrett’s strategic assessment of the Kimberley region announced earlier this year, describing it as “a long sighted and sensible way of providing certainty to all stakeholders in the region, including developers.” He said that STK would continue to actively contribute to the review process.

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Photos available on request.

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