

## Kimberley LNG hub will not hurt environment: Barnett

Tuesday, 11 November 2008

**THE planned liquefied natural gas hub on the Kimberley coast would deliver more jobs and financial gain to the region without causing any environmental damage, according to Western Australia Premier Colin Barnett.**

"What is important for the Kimberley is that we do find a site, whether it is North Head or one of the others," the *West Australian* quoted him as saying.

Barnett had said previously that North Head on the Dampier Peninsula was his preferred site from the shortlist presented by the Northern Development Taskforce.

Other sites include Gourdon Bay south of Broome, James Price Point 58km north of Broome, and Anjo Peninsula on the far north Kimberley coast.

Environmental groups said North Head threatens the Kimberley whale sanctuary, pristine coral reefs and mangrove forests.

"The state will act to secure that site so that we can have some development of LNG – a clean high-tech industry – because without that, the benefits of gas and the benefits of employment, and social packages for local people, including the indigenous people, just will not happen," Barnett said.

"I can assure the people of the Kimberley and the people of Western Australia that the development of an LNG site on the Kimberley will not impact adversely on the environment of the Kimberley."

The public consultation period for the LNG sites closes today while a decision on the site is expected before Christmas.



Colin Barnett



The Kimberley coast