



James Price Point firms as site for Western Australian LNG hub

Sydney (Platts)—19 Dec 2008 James Price Point looks to be firming as the likely site for a proposed LNG hub in Western Australia's remote Kimberley region, after the local environmental authority ruled out the state government's other preferred location.

The LNG hub would be the processing site for all gas developed in the offshore Browse Basin.

In an early advice released Friday, the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority said the environmental risks and impacts were likely to be manageable at two of the shortlisted four sites -- Gourdon Bay south of Broome and James Price Point north of Broome on the Dampier Peninsula. The other locations shortlisted in October were the Anjo Peninsula on the far north Kimberley coast and North Head on the Dampier Peninsula, but the state government had already narrowed its preferred sites to either North Head or James Price Point.

"North Head and Anjo Peninsula are not considered suitable for large-scale industrial development from an environmental point of view," EPA Chairman Paul Vogel said in a statement. "North Head has nearby settlements likely to be affected by emissions and whale calving and resting grounds immediately offshore."

In formulating its report, the EPA has taken account of the size of precinct that may be needed as, once established, the site is likely to attract further large proposals in the future, Vogel said.

"For James Price Point the risk of future expansion being significantly constrained is likely to be low," he added. "At Gourdon Bay future expansion may be limited by the frontage available with direct access to deep water."

Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett said Thursday that the state government expected to identify the preferred site for the LNG hub within the next week.

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