

The LNG issue

COLIN Barnett is adamant that the LNG industrialisation of the Dampier Peninsula will go ahead irrespective of any opposition.

Many Kimberley people are against the destruction of our pristine coastline, but are adopting a fatalistic attitude: "It's going to happen anyway, so get on board!" Nothing could be further from the truth.

Elsewhere in Australia, Gunn's pulp mill in Tasmania was given the go-ahead by the State Government, but is now on shaky ground mainly because it's so unpopular with the people of the region.

Investors are now withdrawing interest and the Federal Government is meticulously upholding environmental standards.

We all remember Tasmania's divisive dams issue of the 1980s which was defeated.

I am appealing to all those in opposition to the proposed social and environmental destruction of the Dampier Peninsula to maintain their optimism and trust in people

power.

Let's say Barnett gets his own way, a fast-forward picture 20 years from now will see Broome becoming an extension of the Pilbara.

At least then I can look my grandchildren in the eye and say: "I was opposed to this madness!"

**Damian Kelly,
Broome.**

REPEATING over and over, like some kind of fundamentalist's mantra, that a gas hub is inevitable on Dampier Peninsula, as does Broome Chamber of Commerce president Tony Proctor, is only self-gratifying rhetoric appealing to no-one else but his fellow passengers on the gravy train.

The rest of us, a fast-growing number of Australians who believe the Kimberley's natural values are worth fighting for, reckon otherwise.

This was amply reflected at last

Thursday's public protest rally against a gas hub on Dampier Peninsula.

In a vibrant and vocal display of their disgust at environmental vandalism and cultural disrespect on an unforgivable scale, a crowd of 500 Broome and peninsula residents chanted "gas free Kimberley", "hands off country" as they street marched through Broome.

Tony wasn't there. Perhaps he was on the phone synergising with Premier Barnett and Treasurer Buswell. Perhaps, in a moment of pure synergy, they said: "Here's an issue to be dealt with."

Well, they'd be right. And the best way to deal with the issue is for them to accept the logical alternative of piping the gas to the Pilbara.

**Robert Vaughan,
Broome.**