

Land Council welcomes talks on Kimberley LNG hub

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The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) has welcomed a commitment by the Western Australian Government to spend three months negotiating with traditional owners before pushing ahead with an LNG hub on the Kimberley coast.

Premier Colin Barnett today announced James Price Point, about 50 kilometres north of Broome, as the chosen site for a gas processing facility.

The site was selected without the consent of traditional owners and is opposed by environmentalists.

But KLC chairman Wayne Bergmann says it is a positive sign Mr Barnett has accepted a Commonwealth recommendation that a deal be mediated before the matter is taken to the courts.

"It seems very clear that the Premier is taking a step back and is realising that he won't be able to get this development without the support of Aboriginal people," he said.

"He's no longer criticising Aboriginal people in the Kimberley for their participation."