

James Price Point chosen for Kimberley LNG hub

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THE Western Australia state government has chosen James Price Point, located about 60km from Broome, as the site for its planned Kimberley liquefied natural gas hub.

"After extensive consideration, James Price Point has been declared the location most likely to work best for the Kimberley community, for the environment, for industry and for Western Australia's future economic development," WA Premier Colin Barnett said.



Colin Barnett

He added that James Price Point provided a range of potential development sites along a 10km coastal strip and offered flexibility in locating jetties and processing operations; ease of expansion for two, or more LNG operators; and the absence of settlement, homes or businesses within 20km of the site.

Barnett noted that while it was a step forward, the site still had to undergo a full environmental impact assessment and more detailed technical and social impact studies, before final approval is given.

He added the government hoped to secure land tenure over the site with consent from traditional owners and raised the possibility of restoring rights equivalent to native title over the site after the end of LNG production. However, Barnett added that compulsory acquisition remained an option.

"With respect to acquisition of the site area, the WA government has agreed to a proposal by the Commonwealth to fund a facilitator to work with the key parties (WA Government, Woodside, indigenous interests and relevant Commonwealth agencies) towards a negotiated resolution to acquire the site.

"This process has a completion date of March 31, 2009, after which the state government will begin land acquisition processes."

He added that he was confident that Woodside and its partners would choose to use the LNG hub for their Browse LNG project rather than pipe the gas 850km to the Burrup Peninsula and also reiterated his hope that Inpex would reconsider a WA option for either its Ichthys field or future gas developments.

The site selection brings the Northern Development Taskforce's work to a close with the new Department of State Development to hold consultations with interested parties.

The Browse Basin has proven reserves of 27.5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 600 million barrels of condensate.