

## Gas explorers back \$17m Broome Port expansion

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Three companies exploring for gas in the Browse Basin, off the Kimberley coast of northern Western Australia, have welcomed a major expansion of Broome Port.

More than 100 community, business and Indigenous leaders gathered yesterday for the opening of the \$17 million upgrade.

Representatives from Shell, Woodside and Inpex attended the formalities held on the new 150-metre-long jetty.

Shell's Yves Delnatte says the upgrade will ensure the smooth running of supply vessels servicing the Browse.

"Woodside, Inpex and Shell will operate most likely together in 2007 and that makes this very important to us because there will be potentially more than one vessel coming every day, so that will allow the flexibility to get the vessel in without having to wait outside - which is very expensive obviously."

Shell intends to begin its exploration program in November, after transporting a semi-submersible rig from Malaysia.