

Woodside approaches Kimberley on Browse LNG plant

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AUSTRALIA: Woodside Petroleum's Chief Executive Don Voelte and a senior management team have begun discussions with the indigenous people of the Kimberley coast in Australia on the possibility of locating a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in the area to process the gas pumped up from the company's Torosa, Brecknock and Calliance gas fields in the Browse Basin.

The Australian news report said the meeting was instigated by the Kimberley Land Council (KLC). KLC Executive Director Wayne Bergmann said the meeting was aimed at reopening talks with the traditional owners at One Arm Point, north of Broome, one of several sites suggested as possible locations for an onshore plant to process the vast untapped reserves of Browse Basin gas 200 kilometres (124 miles) off the Kimberley coast.

The meeting came as the World Wildlife Fund, Australian Conservation Foundation and Environs Kimberley joined indigenous leaders in Broome to sign a joint statement granting the green light to the development of an oil and gas industry on the Kimberley coast. The statement acknowledged the economic benefits to the local community from a domestic oil and gas industry, but outlines the conditions for the approval from the parties, stipulating cultural and environmental protection criteria to be met for future developments.

Woodside is mulling development options for its Browse LNG project, including the possibility of constructing an onshore liquefaction plant on either Kimberley coast, Burrup Peninsula or Darwin.