

# Shire takes position on the Browse Basin development

THE Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley has written to the Kimberley Land Council stating its position on development in the Browse Basin gas fields.

The Shire acknowledged there were many issues related to the deposits.

CEO Peter Stubbs wrote: "The deposits are significant by global standards and there will many influences beyond our control in the Kimberley region when it comes to how and when these deposits are developed.

He said that accordingly the Shire had adopted the following positions:

- That State and Commonwealth governments and resource companies with interests in the Browse Basin oil and gas reserves and, in the interest of building the capacity of the Kimberley region, and to ensure flow on benefits to the Kimberley, and in keeping with benchmarks already established by Rio Tinto (Argyle Diamond Mine), that commitments to

regionally based employment of 80 per cent be made;

- That in keeping with the State Government's 2004 commitment to the Pilbara region to improve the regions capacity to support people, given the very significant resource projects occurring there and the similar scale of resource projects expected in the Kimberley region through the Browse Basin development, Council request the State Government to establish a \$50M/year Kimberley fund for 10 years to advance this region through the additional royalties the State will receive. In taking this position Council is of the view, that all other things aside (environmental issues and clearances etc), civic leaders in the region have a responsibility to ensure that if and when the Browse Basin developments occur, they do so in a manner which delivers appropriate benefits to the people of the Kimberley region both now and into the

future. There are clear precedents for the position Council is advocating and these are documented in the attached Council report.

The region might be best served by pulling together on benefits is might derive from the development of the Browse Basin gas deposits.

Council encourages your organisation to consider sharing its own position on how the Kimberley region can best benefit from major resource developments in the region. Resource companies may well advocate that where and how their royalties are paid or returned to the communities is a matter for governments.

That may be true, but that does not stop resource companies using their considerable influence to support the Kimberley region by advocating for opportunities, such as those suggested by Council, to advance our region.

Council is awaiting a response.