

Owners push for LNG input

By STEVEN HOUNSOME

THE Kimberley Land Council has successfully campaigned for two additional sites to be considered for LNG processing hubs, adding to the nine already announced by the Northern Development Taskforce.

KLC executive director Wayne Bergmann said a taskforce of elected traditional owners would draw up its own shortlist of suitable sites for an LNG hub.

This would involve excluding any of the 11 sites which were not supported by taskforce members.

"This process is crucial to ensure Kimberley Aboriginal people gain long-term benefits from any development, and to ensure robust community support," he said.

The State Government has said no development would occur without the informed consent and substantial economic participation of traditional owners.

The taskforce asked NDT to reconsider Cape Voltaire and eval-



WAYNE Bergmann.

uate the Anjo Peninsula, north of Cape Bougainville, for a potential hub site.

Cape Voltaire, 375km north-east of Derby, has access to deep water and is just 260km from the Ichthys gas fields but had undergone insufficient studies to enable assessment.

Anjo Peninsula has not been looked at by the NDT.

Native title had been claimed on both areas but was yet to be determined, Mr Bergmann said.

NDT communications officer Gillian Gallagher confirmed the two sites had been added and would undergo the same technical evaluations as the other nine.

Results on Cape Voltaire and Anjo Peninsula would be available in time for a stakeholder workshop to be held in Broome from July 23, she said.

Mr Bergmann said the KLC was still considering the prospect of two processing facilities and said there was no guarantee a single hub was viable.

He described site selection as "a very difficult process that needs less speed and more level-headed thinking".

The NDT is expected to produce a further short-list of sites in early August.

The KLC has said the traditional owner shortlist of four sites would be available by early August.