

State-Feds talk LNG at development meeting

By CHRIS HINGSTON

STATE and Federal Government ministers have promised to work together to ensure the Kimberley benefits from any future resources development, with federal infrastructure minister Anthony Albanese in Broome to discuss how new infrastructure could unlock the economic potential of the proposed LNG hub.

Cooperation between all levels of government and regional benefits from major infrastructure projects were two key themes discussed at the Regional Development Council meeting held in Broome last week.

Speaking to the Broome Advertiser

after the meeting, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Anthony Albanese said he wanted to make sure any Kimberley development was "sensitive to the demands of the region".

Mr Albanese said improved cooperation would help guarantee the correct infrastructure was in place to maximise economic benefit. "If proper planning occurs there is no reason why it shouldn't enhance prosperity," he said.

Local MLA Carol Martin said planning with the Federal Government now would help avoid the problems seen in

the State's south, such as further demands on housing.

"It's great the Federal Government is talking to us in the early stages and planning for the future," she said.

Accommodation camps for construction workers would need to take priority to avoid any impact on the region's tourist industry, Ms Martin said.

"Tourist accommodation will not be used for construction workers," she said. State Kimberley and regional development minister Jon Ford said he had not experienced this level of State-Federal cooperation in his four years in the development portfolio.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: Gary Gray, Carol Martin, Anthony Albanese and Jon Ford in Broome for the Regional Development Council.