

# Environment is high on the agenda

GOVERNMENT and industry environmental management in the Kimberley were first on the agenda at the Kimberley Economic Forum last week.

Environment, Water and Heritage department natural and Indigenous heritage assistant secretary Terry Bailey explained the process of national heritage listing, highlighting the decision process for listing a large area of the West Kimberley would not be complete until 2010.

Mr Bailey said listing thresholds had to be met, which included authenticity and integrity of the site and comparative analysis with other sites.

"In February, the Australian and State governments agreed to a strategic assessment of the West Kimberley area," he said.

"The assessment has a coastal focus south of Broome to Kalumburu, it's looking at where is likely and not likely to have heritage values and where can the common-user LNG hub be situated."

He said rules governing heritage areas had changed last year and it was now possible for seg-

ments of a larger area to be listed rather than the area as a whole.

Argyle Diamonds regional participation manager Tim O'Neill also discussed the company's environmental management and work with traditional owners.

"Traditional owners hold us to account quite rightly," Mr O'Neill said.

"That and our statutory compliance takes us beyond compliance."

He stressed the importance of building a good business case as a company and being environmentally conscious, using Argyle's need to source cleaner and cheaper energy than diesel in 2009.

"Ongoing use of a diesel generator is not a favoured option, we have some other options still on the table and others not," he said.

The mining company is still researching the possibility of using hydro, thermal or photovoltaic energy at its underground facility.



Environment, Water and Heritage department natural and Indigenous heritage assistant secretary Terry Bailey and Argyle Diamonds regional participation manager Tim O'Neill fielded questions about the resources industry.