

Kimberley site for LNG hub must be assessed: Opposition

- **Vanessa Williams**
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The opposition has called on the State government to guarantee the independent and rigorous environmental assessment for the final site for the Kimberley LNG hub.

Premier Colin Barnett said yesterday that selecting an indigenous site at North Head for a LNG hub could help WA bounce back from the loss of the Inpex gas project to Darwin.

"We are not talking very much land at all," Mr Barnett said.

"Two-and-a-half thousand acres of land in an area (the Kimberley) twice the size of Victoria is a very small footprint."

Mr Barnett released an evaluation yesterday which reviewed 11 possible sites for LNG processing projects in the Kimberly.

But opposition environment spokesperson Sally Talbot said the Premier displayed a reckless regard for due process by expressing personal preference for the site, which concerned environmental groups.

"I share the concerns being expressed loud and clear by conservation groups around the state about Mr Barnett's approach to selecting a site," Dr Talbot said.

"The independence of the environmental process is critical if the pristine waters of the Kimberley, so highly prized by tourists and the aquaculture industry, are to be protected for future generations."

A final decision for the LNG project is expected to be made by the end of the year.