

Premier to view gas site

By CHRIS HINGSTON

BROOME Shire president Graeme Campbell has called on Premier Colin Barnett to personally visit each of the four Kimberley sites being considered for an LNG processing hub before a decision is made on a location.

In a meeting last week Mr Barnett told Cr Campbell he intended to visit his preferred site, North Head, before the processing plant's location was decided.

In addition to North Head, James Price Point, 50km north of Broome, Gourdon Bay to the south and the Anjo Peninsula in the far north Kimberley are all being considered as hub sites.

However, Cr Campbell told the *Broome Advertiser* he would encourage Mr Barnett to visit all of the sites before a decision was made as each had positive and negative elements.

The Broome Shire council is yet to determine a formal position on where an LNG hub should be located, but is preparing a submission for the Northern Development Taskforce site selection report.

Cr Campbell said his meeting with Mr Barnett centred on a push for sufficient infrastructure to be in place to help the Shire manage the arrival of an LNG hub and the need

for an early resolution to native title discussions.

"There are a number of commercial and social impacts that would occur if oil and gas was to come to the Shire of Broome ... these need to be addressed prior to and not after the event," he said.

A spokesman for Mr Barnett confirmed he intended to travel to North Head and said the Premier had made a commitment to do his best to ensure the Broome Shire had sufficient infrastructure to manage the introduction of an LNG hub.

Cr Campbell said housing and land availability, as well as services such as health, education and law and order would all need support if the hub was located near Broome.

"We do not need another Ravensthorpe or Karratha," he said.

He said after the arrival of the mining industry the Shire of Ravensthorpe was facing sewerage and housing availability problems and infrastructure in Hopetoun had been "stretched to the max".

In the past three weeks Cr Campbell said he had met with three new Government Ministers and had more meetings planned for before Christmas.

He said the amount of access to the new Government compared to the previous one was "refreshing".