

I AM DEEPLY concerned that the WA Premier is about to make a disastrous, irreparable, deeply destructive decision to introduce heavy industry into one of four sites on the pristine Kimberley coast.

I write as a 57-year-old Broome resident who has lived in the Kimberley for almost 30 years, made a wonderful family and community-focused life here, and has grown a successful small business here for the past 14 years.

I love this amazingly different part of the world and feel passionate about preserving its beauty, its uniqueness and its wild value, not only for our grandchildren, but for all the world to see and experience.

This is a special place for “walkabouts”, to use the current tourism talk. This wilderness helps people become authentically in touch with their own souls.

To risk losing this by introducing an industrial hub into pristine, beautiful, rugged coast is the height of folly, of short-term, narrow focused, greedy thinking.

I fear the Premier's main motivation may be ego-centric – to “make a name for himself” in true old-fashioned, Ord River Dam, Sir Charles Court style.

Many ordinary Australians have matured since those old days of environmental vandalism and economic folly. We have witnessed too many man-made disasters.

This is not an anti-development stance. It is a stance that requires all future development to be carefully considered, researched, examined for all its environmental, social, economic and ethical impacts, and introduced with great care, love and protection for this Kimberley region.

I want to grow old in this wild part of the world, to see tourists continue to delight in its treasures, to see its tourism, pearling, fishing industries fostered and protected, and its wilderness values upheld. Anything less is juvenile and beneath us.

Please Woodside, State Government, EPA, Broome Shire, people of Australia, choose to place the new gas plant in other existing industrial areas such as the Burrup in the Pilbara.

**Alison Southern,
Broome.**