

Broome shire says no to LNG hub

Friday, 19 December 2008

THE Broome Shire Council has declared it does not want the planned Kimberley liquefied natural gas hub within its boundaries over concerns the area's pearling, fishing and tourism industries would be damaged.

The decision affects both of Western Australia Premier Colin Barnett's favoured sites at North Head and James Price Point.

It also comes just before key advice is released by the Environmental Protection Authority today on the four short-listed sites for the precinct, the *West Australian* reported.



The Kimberley coast

Broome shire president Graeme Campbell, who voted against the declaration because of concerns the council would be excluded from decision-making on the location of the hub, said he wanted an urgent meeting with the premier to discuss the concerns about the precinct being built on the coastline.

Barnett had said yesterday he wanted to meet representatives of the shire and local environmental groups during his visit to Broome, which would include a tour of the alternative sites.

He added that while he would prefer to reach an agreement with traditional owners over the location of the gas precinct, he would not rule out compulsory acquisition.

Kimberley Land Council chief executive Wayne Bergmann said compulsory acquisition of the land was tantamount to stealing and the premier had committed to working on an agreement over the site.