

BROWSE LNG PROJECT — INQUIRY

Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [5.04 pm]: I opened my comments on this motion by expressing my surprise that the minister, Hon Peter Collier, said he was confused about the purpose of an inquiry and doubted whether it would have any value. I spent the first part of my contribution pointing out that purely and simply on the question of the lost jobs and lost economic opportunities to the state, an inquiry would be well worth having and that I believed it would result in some worthy outcomes. I also had the time to refer to the loss of confidence in the environmental assessment system, the second aspect to the call for an inquiry, which I think it would be well worth the government giving serious consideration to. Those two issues form part of the basis for the Labor opposition supporting this motion. There is a third, very important area; that is, one aspect of the questions boils down to our whole community's attitude towards Aboriginal self-determination.

Hon Peter Collier: They want the hub.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: I agree. I was about to comment on that. I was a bit taken aback by the way the minister responded to the comments by Hon Robin Chapple about the fact that the local traditional owners wanted it. We all know they wanted it and, in fact, they drove a substantial part of the process from the beginning. Of course they wanted it.

Hon Peter Collier: There were opponents within the group.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: Of course, there were opponents.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.