

BROWSE GAS FIELD BASIN EXPLORATION PROGRAM - WATER REQUIREMENTS

906. Hon KEN BASTON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

In reply to my question 859 of 28 September 2006 regarding the supply of water to tenders servicing exploration drills in the Browse gas field, the minister stated that the developer or customer would be required to fund any upgrade to the Broome port pipeline.

- (1) Who in this case does the minister consider to be the developer or customer?
- (2) Given the small fee charged by the Broome Port Authority for the provision of this service, does the minister consider it appropriate for the authority to bear the cost?
- (3) Given the variety of the exploration companies using the service and the limited duration of their supply needs, does the minister consider it appropriate or administratively feasible for those companies to bear this cost?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The developer or customer is that person or entity seeking the upgrade to the water supply, in this instance, the Broome Port Authority. However, it should be noted that to date no formal application for an upgrade to the water supply has been received from the Broome Port Authority.
- (2) Yes. The fee charged by the Broome Port Authority for the provision of this service is a matter between the port and its customers.
- (3) The cost that companies bear will be a commercial matter of arrangements between the Broome Port Authority and users.