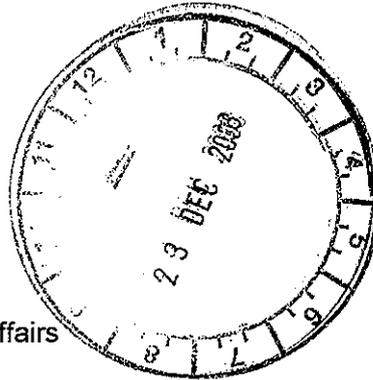


# PUBLIC

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The Legislative Council of Western Australia  
The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House PERTH WA 6000



## **Submission in Support of Petition No 16--Protect Kimberley Coast--LNG Processing Hub**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a written submission regarding the issues in our petition. We have not taken our complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

The iconic Kimberley coast is treasured by its residents and by tourists from Australia and abroad as one of the last great beautiful wilderness areas left in the world with pristine marine and terrestrial environments of great ecological importance, unique and fascinating cultural values and a socio-economic community fabric that is precious to those that comprise it; an LNG processing hub on the Kimberley coast would diminish these values irreversibly. It is for this reason that the petition signatories oppose the development of an LNG hub, its associated infrastructure and industries on any part of the Kimberley coast.

Petition signatories are concerned about pollution and other risks to vital ecosystems such as mangroves, remnant rainforests, coastal vine thickets, near-shore coral reefs, beaches, pindan cliffs and the clean coastal waters that support a multitude of fish and other marine species such as the endangered dugong, five species of turtle and the newly discovered snubfin dolphin. Of particular concern is the risk to turtle nesting sites, shorebird roosting sites and dugong feeding grounds as well as crucial calving grounds for protected species of whales, such as the endangered Humpback Whale. The Kimberley coast is a high density migratory corridor for the Humpback Whale, which gives birth and suckles their young in the area for four months until the calves are strong enough to migrate to summer feeding grounds.

Signatories are concerned that LNG is not an environmentally responsible fuel option and that greenhouse emissions will rise as a result of the project.

Petition signatories are concerned about the immediate and long term impacts of an LNG hub on Kimberley communities. Local sustainable industries such as pearling, fishing and Indigenous/nature-based tourism will be adversely affected from potential pollution to the marine environment, air pollution and visual pollution of what is currently considered some of the most strikingly beautiful landscapes in the world. A diminished ecosystem and a reduction of environmental health will also impact on the number of tourists that wish to visit the area. While some short term local employment may result from the building of a hub, once built, the workforce will be scaled back, with any economic/employment opportunities benefiting only a few, to the detriment of those who previously enjoyed long term employment prospects in sustainable industries.

Signatories are concerned that industry on the Kimberley coast will result in a reduction of accessible nature for fishing, camping and other recreational activities. People are also troubled that industrialisation of the Kimberley coast will have a negative effect on the town of Broome. A sudden increase in population and development in the town will lead to further increases in an already inflated cost of living, including increased housing costs; "small town fabric" and intimate community interaction will deteriorate; community identity will weaken. The social impacts of a "fly-in-fly-out" workforce will compete for already-inadequate accommodation and services such as Broome's

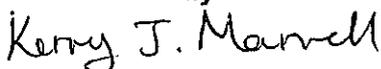
struggling medical service. A fly in fly out workforce will have little connection to our community, which does not want to see Broome suffer from disastrous social consequences including poverty, displacement, disempowerment, as seen in the Pilbara and as documented on ABC's Four Corners report "The Money Pit" broadcast on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

In the year of the Federal Apology to the Stolen Generation, signatories do not support an LNG precinct built following compulsory acquirement of traditionally owned Indigenous land. Signatories also do not support an LNG precinct that will uproot Indigenous people from their country and relocate them against their will, or force them to live next to an industrial complex or associated infrastructure. An LNG precinct on the western side of the Dampier Peninsula will harm an important songline known as the Lurujarri Heritage Trail that runs from Cape Leveque to Roebuck Bay.

We ask that the Legislative Council review all scientific data and expert advice on the impact of an LNG processing precinct with its associated industries on the Kimberley Coast and to support further research into the Kimberley's ecosystem. Our request regarding this includes expectations that:

- The State Government will assess potential gas precinct locations outside of the Kimberley region – not just the Woodside LNG facility on the Burrup, but also other sites such as brownfield sites near Port Hedland
- The State Government will honour its agreement to conduct a Broad Regional Strategic Assessment ( aimed at National Heritage Listing) relating to the assessment of the impacts of actions under the Plan for the Browse Basin Common-User Liquefied Natural Gas Hub Precinct and associated activities, signed on 6 February 2008 between the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts and the WA Ministers for State Development
- The State Government will undertake studies into the socio-economic impact of a gas precinct on Kimberley communities
- The State Government will allow time for the necessary whale and turtle and other environmental studies to take place
- The State Government will assess risk of native marine life contracting diseases and other quarantine risks from increased shipping
- The State Government will commission a study to assess the lifecycle greenhouse emissions associated with exploitation of the Browse Basin fossil fuel resource, including emissions from extracting the natural gas, processing it into LNG, transporting it to other markets over the lifetime of the project, as well as emissions from the electricity generation plants in countries that use the LNG, plus the transportation and end-use emissions of the large volumes of condensate and LPG that will be produced by this project
- The State Government will not make any further decisions regarding the development of an LNG processing precinct until the aforementioned research and assessments have been completed, with results disseminated to the public, and a thorough community consultation process undertaken.
- The State Government will nominate the Kimberley Region for World Heritage listing, aiming for the highest level of protection under the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and will allow related heritage assessments of the Region's natural and cultural values to take place before making any further decisions regarding the development of an LNG precinct on the Kimberley Coast
- The State Government considers its ethical obligation to protect the Kimberly region as a wilderness asset for current and future generations of Western Australians

Yours faithfully



Kerry Marvell

C/O- The Broome Hub Caps

18/12/08.