

# PUBLIC

ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

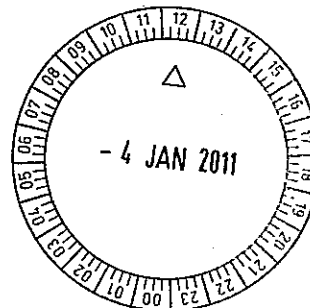


Member for the  
Mining and Pastoral Region

RECEIVED

13 DEC 2010

Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment &  
Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr Ellis,

**PETITION No. 99: INDUSTRIAL LNG HUB AT JAMES PRICE POINT,  
BROOME**

Thank you for your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in which you invited me to provide a submission in support of Petition No. 99, which was tabled by me on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

I have not referred this matter to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

This petition requests a review of the actions taken to date in respect of the Section 146(1) Agreement dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008 between the Australian Government's Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts and the Western Australian Government's Ministers for State Development and Environment and Climate Change relating to the Plan for the Browse Basin Common-User LNG Hub Precinct and associated activities (the 'Plan').

It is my understanding that this 'Agreement' had its genesis in the West Kimberley Resource Development Study: *Developing the West Kimberley's Resources, August 2005* which was undertaken within the framework of the Australian Government's Regional Minerals Program. This document discusses the many and varied values of the west Kimberley, highlighting the petroleum and mineral resources, and outlines a number of possible development scenarios, from modest development to high growth. The study makes 16 recommendations, many of which highlight the need for tri-partite Government cooperation and engagement with Traditional Owners and the local community.

The 'Agreement' intended that a strategic assessment of the 'Plan' be undertaken to meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and the Environmental Protection (EP) Act. In addition: 'the process for selection of the Precinct will consider feasible alternatives to locations of the Precinct outside of the Kimberley region'.

In December 2008, James Price Point was announced as the WA Government's preferred site for the development of an LNG Precinct. In January 2009, a comparative analysis of the feasibility of alternative locations for the development of a common-user LNG precinct outside the Kimberley region was carried out by GHD. By the authors' own admission, this

**PORTFOLIO AREAS:**

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE; MINES AND PETROLEUM; STATE DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRY; NUCLEAR ENERGY; LOCAL GOVERNMENT;  
WASTE MANAGEMENT; PORTS; PASTORAL ISSUES; ABORIGINAL ISSUES; RACING AND GAMING; AND REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.

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was: 'not a comprehensive analysis of options, but an analysis based on existing information to help identify key issues'. The study looked at sites in the Pilbara, Northern Territory and Offshore. It made no recommendations and concluded that a good deal more work was required in order to make a satisfactory comparison. This is a serious flaw in the process agreed to by the parties on 6 February 2008.

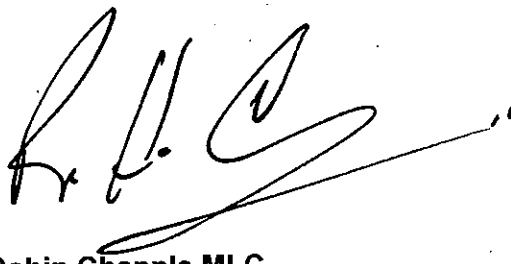
The Social Impact Assessment released by the State Government in November 2010 has recently been challenged by the Kimberley Land Council's Indigenous Impacts Report dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010. In the mean time, Woodside has commissioned the Queensland firm Environment and Behaviour Consultants to undertake the Browse Social Impact Assessment (BSIA). A careful comparison of all these reports will need to be made to test the efficacy of each one of them.

Ever since the WA Government made its announcement that James Price Point was its preferred site, I have been inundated with telephone calls and correspondence from Broome constituents and others expressing concern over what this development will mean to them, to their town, to the sense of community and to the environment if allowed to go ahead. Several thousand people have joined rallies and protests in Perth and Broome, voicing their opposition to the LNG hub being located at James Price Point. It is my view that these people have not been adequately listened to or properly represented at the local, State or Federal level of Government.

Rather than being consulted, they have been subjected to Government and industry presentations, without adequate opportunity to feedback their views. Contrary to the Agreement, there has been no independent examination of the impacts of the proposal: on the local economy, community, culture, heritage, environment or lifestyle values..

This represents a serious breach of trust between the State Government and the local community. I therefore join the petitioners in requesting that the Legislative Council undertake a review of the actions, the consultation process and the adequacy of reports and information being made available to the public throughout the development of this project.

Yours sincerely



**The Hon Robin Chapple MLC**  
Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region

10<sup>th</sup> November 2010

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