



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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#### Premier Barnett's decision best move for Kimberley

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston has today supported WA Premier Colin Barnett's decision to begin compulsory acquisition of land at James Price Point, the site of a proposed gas precinct north of Broome.

While Senator Eggleston acknowledged the move is likely to be controversial amongst some environmental and Indigenous groups, he said it is a unique investment in the State that would present a once in a lifetime opportunity, bringing significant social and economic benefits to the North West region and local residents.

"The James Price Point negotiation process has been extensive and was undertaken in good faith by all parties – however unfortunately it has become clear that the negotiation process has been exhausted," said Senator Eggleston.

"The proposed LNG gas precinct at James Price Point is a \$30 billion project and is essential for WA in order to take advantage of the Browse Basin's massive gas reserves.

"This major development presents a unique opportunity to provide many thousands of jobs to local residents, which is timely given the disproportional levels of unemployment that can be found in the Kimberley," said Senator Eggleston.

Senator Eggleston noted that Premier Barnett's decision to expedite the process and acquire the land at James Price Point will ensure the gas development goes ahead; effectively guaranteeing local communities considerable social and economic improvements into the future.

"The project will provide an opportunity for impoverished Indigenous communities to be propelled into the 21st Century, delivering services and employment opportunities that are often taken for granted in the South of the State," said Senator Eggleston.

While it is important to go through a thorough and methodical negotiation process, Senator Eggleston said that developments that can bring such fundamental changes to local Indigenous communities in the Kimberley should not be neglected or be pushed to other States such as the Northern Territory, who would accept such an opportunity with open arms.

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