



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Garrett's block on gas hub will disadvantage Indigenous people

Friday 17th April 2009

The suggestion that Peter Garrett will block the development of a gas hub north of Broome could seriously disadvantage the Indigenous people of the Kimberley, according to WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston.

"The only answer to the problems that plague the Indigenous communities of the Kimberley is to get them off welfare and into jobs," Senator Eggleston said.

"Garrett's decision is threatening the opportunity for jobs in the West Kimberley, and prolonging the presence of the problems affecting the locals" he said.

"Peter Garrett has at stake hundreds of jobs, billions of dollars and countless new community services that would vastly improve the lives of hundreds of Indigenous people," Senator Eggleston said.

"This project will occupy a very small area off the Kimberley coast, yet the flow on effects are enormous including new health services, better education and housing for the Indigenous community," he said.

"Surely not even Garrett and his eco-crackpot friends are willing to put these things at risk."

Senator Eggleston said the local Indigenous people, who would benefit from the new jobs created by the gas hub, struggled to find a purpose within their lives without the prospect of employment.

"If Garrett's Labor Government is serious about improving the lives of Australia's indigenous people, then they should be promoting, not destroying, job creating projects such as this,"

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