



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

**Liberal Senator for Western Australia  
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee**

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### **Gas hub to boost Broome economy: Senator Eggleston**

May 9, 2011

The Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claim group returned a 'yes' vote to Woodside last week, approving a gas precinct which will bring jobs, training and development opportunities for Kimberley locals, according to WA Senator Alan Eggleston.

"This project is a major investment in the Kimberley's future as it will generate a profitable all-year round economy in Broome, easing the reliance on its 6 month tourist season," Senator Eggleston said.

Senator Eggleston said opposition groups were short-sighted about the project, which he believes will deliver long term benefits for Indigenous communities and help lift themselves out of a vicious cycle of abject poverty and unemployment.

"We need to improve living standards, education and job opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley— and over the life of this project, that goal should be realised."

He said opposition from The Greens, who want gas to be piped to the Pilbara for processing instead, would negate the advantages for the aboriginal community and impose massive extra costs.

"Many of the groups opposing the project on environmental grounds have ignored the world class environmental plan for the precinct, which covers only 1.5 per cent of the native title area," Senator Eggleston said.

Woodside said the initiatives in the proposal are worth in excess of A\$1 billion and include payments to the claim group, regional benefit payments, job targets, education, employment and training initiatives, support for Indigenous rangers, contracting opportunities and capacity building support.

The \$30 billion LNG project at James Price Point, north of Broome, has been subject to ongoing opposition however traditional owners have now given their approval and project partners are expected to finalise the project within 12 months.

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