



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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#### Rebel to the wrong cause

17 December 2010

Internet activist group "GetUp!" have attached themselves to a campaign against the proposed gas hub at James Price Point, ignorant of the desperately needed benefits that it will bring to local Indigenous communities, says Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston.

"It is unfortunate that this group have decided to campaign against a project that will make significant inroads in helping bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians," said Senator Eggleston.

"There is over \$1 billion worth of benefits that will flow to Indigenous groups in the Kimberley if this deal goes ahead, providing training and employment opportunities which are simply not there at the moment.

"There is a general understanding of the basic fact that employment is vital for communities to be able to survive and prosper. The Kimberley has for many years been home to a disproportionately high level of Indigenous unemployment with significant social problems including alcohol, substance, physical and sexual abuse - the gas development is a unique opportunity to lift these communities out of abject poverty and into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

"The actual size of the 2 square kilometre plant will be the equivalent ratio as one seat in the entire MCG.

"I implore GetUp! to assess the circumstances of those communities who will benefit from the James Price Point project.

"There are a lot of environmentalists and armchair activists such as Sydney resident Justice Murray Wilcox who have disseminated false claims of mass industrialisation of the Kimberley and it is disappointing that GetUp! is helping peddle this propaganda to the detriment of the Kimberley's Indigenous people," said Senator Eggleston.

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