

## WWF Warns Of 'Global Outrage' If Scott Reef Used For Browse LNG Project

Environment group WWF has warned there will be "global outrage" if an LNG processing facility is built on Scott Reef, regardless of the scale of the development.

WWF Australia Chief Executive Officer, Greg Bourne, said there is no place for an LNG plant on Scott Reef. "We do not believe that everywhere can be up for grabs and I know that many in the industry concur and that some places are indeed off limits", Bourne told delegates at the APPEA 2007 conference in Adelaide.

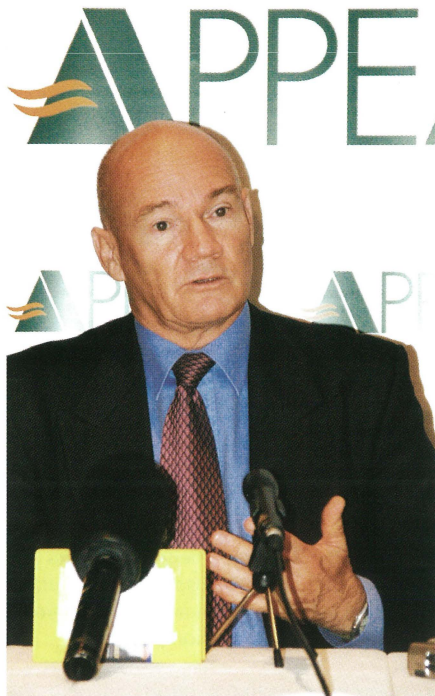
"Coral reef systems such as this represent an important and an increasingly threatened marine ecosystem climate", he said. "To construct a facility there would attract global attention and generate global outrage. We want to see Australian oil and gas operators known for their legacy of sensible development and environmental leadership and not to be known as the first to dismantle a coral ecosystem like Scott Reef in the name of purely economic progress."

Bourne said the Kimberley, which he said includes the offshore region, is a place of extraordinary natural value and the social and cultural values are of global significance. "Notwithstanding the large gaps of information, we have responded to industry calls for consideration of fast track development of gas reserves in the Browse Basin. But to me it is simply inconceivable that the major developments should occur without rigorous assessment of the cumulative impacts and a careful analysis of the options", he said.

"The goal should not be just to reduce the footprint of a particular project, but it should also be to enhance the social and environmental heritage we have. That's essentially the frame that we consider of sensible development, where you are trying to create net environmental benefit, net social benefit as well as net economic benefit."

He urged companies planning gas developments in the Kimberley to work with WWF and other stakeholders to find "creative ways to enhance the region". He issued a challenge to oil and gas companies to work with WWF, government agencies and other stakeholders to come up with a strategy "to find the least destructive locations for industrial hubs" in the Kimberley for the 2008 APPEA conference scheduled for Perth.

"This will of necessity mean that we will have to think outside projects, outside companies and find new ways of engaging with others and stakeholders", he said. "But it doesn't



WWF Australia Chief Executive Officer, Greg Bourne, at the APPEA conference in Adelaide.

mean that we have to ignore the commercial imperatives. Gas is so important, we must get it out further and faster and quicker everywhere, in lots of parts of the world, but it does not mean a land grab with no thought for society or the environment."

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Bourne said a planning process focused on minimising the footprint of gas developments in the Kimberley and maximising the social and economic benefits over the next year or so could deliver a framework that would provide greater certainty for all stakeholders. "WWF is prepared to facilitate the planning process because we know we must deliver outcomes fast", he said. "And we call upon all proponents to engage in a broader dialogue, we just need to be working together."

"We need early participation of stakeholders, we need more information and we need the application of appropriate policy instruments. One of the policy instruments that is coming along is the Oceans Policy review and the Commonwealth government will be reviewing

three nautical miles out to 200 nm including the Browse Basin."

Bourne announced that the WWF was increasing its research efforts in the Kimberley and has engaged consultants to identify development options and map out the values of the region. "They are doing a high level scientific evaluation of these values in terms of their regional and international significance and we will be convening a series of round tables for regional strategic planning of the Kimberley and I invite all of you to participate", he said.

"I believe a catalyst is needed and maybe we are that catalyst, maybe we are not. And as a person trained as a chemist a catalyst is to reduce the amount of energy needed to get the desired actions and outcomes and an overall speeding up of the process. We want to speed up the process and I do believe we have to have a strategic approach."

He said oil and gas industry also has within its grasp the possibility with governments to lead the "sensible development" of the Kimberley. "We at WWF are committed to help find powerful solutions to both these concerns", he said. "As people, as individuals as leaders of business I believe we have to answer two thorny questions; are you proud of what you are doing today and are you proud of what you are leaving behind. We all need to be able to answer yes to both of those questions and we all need to work together."

Bourne also called on more "industry champions" to take a greater role in regional development and climate change. "Everyone is still too focused on their own project and their own company and I believe that could lead us to a really terrible outcome as we go forward", he said.

Bourne, who worked in the oil industry for 32 years and was formerly the Regional President of BP Australasia, said one of the great privileges of working in the industry is the opportunity to think ahead and work on grand projects. "They will outlive your working lives and you will leave a legacy", he said. "Your industry has the need, the ability and, for some, the desire to lead and take action on climate change but we need much more leadership and action as we go forward.

"We can avoid dangerous climate change, but to achieve that the petroleum industry needs to support the introduction of a unilateral climate change plan that includes a unilateral and well designed carbon emissions trading scheme, as well as additional support for low emission technologies." ■