

Native Title Agreement Reached For Browse

Woodside has reached a Native Title Agreement for its Browse LNG project which will enable the Browse LNG precinct near James Price Point, 60 km north of Broome in Western Australia, to be established. The oil and gas giant made the agreement with the State of WA and the Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claim group, securing the land required for the State Government's LNG Precinct.

The agreement, secured by the Goolarabooloo and Jabirr Jabirr people, the Kimberley Land Council and the Government of Western Australia, will also provide a package of benefits and incentives for indigenous people living in the Kimberley region which have been budgeted in excess of \$1 BB over the life of the precinct. These benefits and incentives have been designed to allow meaningful and positive change to the economic and social circumstances of indigenous people in the Kimberley.

Premier Colin Barnett said the agreement was the most significant act of self determination by an Aboriginal group in Australian history. "Establishing the LNG precinct will boost economic growth in Western Australia and significantly improve the lives of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley", Barnett said. "For the first time in a native title agreement, benefits will not only go to the affected native title group, but also be directed to indigenous people of the Dampier Peninsula and the wider Kimberley region."

Woodside is committed to implement ongoing education, training and employment initiatives, indigenous job targets, support for indigenous businesses, cultural initiatives and payments upon project milestones being met, including a final investment decision.

The Premier said all West Australians would benefit from the development of the natural gas resources in the Browse Basin, and the investment, employment and business opportunities, generated by the construction and operation of multi-billion dollar LNG facilities.

"For the traditional owners and their descendants, and for indigenous communities



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across the Dampier Peninsula and the entire region, the agreement will ensure an unprecedented level of economic independence", he said. "Benefits will total more than \$1.5 BB over the 30-year life of the project and will be expanded when additional proponents take up land in the precinct."

The agreement includes state funding of \$256 MM over 30 years towards housing, education, economic development, promotion and protection of cultural heritage and a Kimberley enhancement scheme which will invest in indigenous social programs. Other benefits include land parcels, indigenous land reform on the Dampier Peninsula, the creation and joint management of conservation areas, employment and business contracting opportunities.

The agreement also includes long term commitments to establish the precinct for LNG processing and exports, as well as the rehabilitation of the land and return of the land to the traditional owners at the end of the precinct's life.

Barnett said the State Government would apply the highest level of environmental oversight for this project. "The precinct will not proceed without the necessary approvals, conditions and detailed management plans", he said. "The traditional owners will be involved in the management of the precinct. They will monitor

the environmental performance of precinct operators and consulted over the environmental protection measures taken."

Some funds will be immediately transferred to the Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claimant group to enable the administrative and governance matters to be progressed. The balance of State benefits will flow to the traditional owners upon the acquisition of land for the precinct, when a foundation proponent is secured and upon passage of the precinct legislation.

Reaching an agreement has taken more than two years of negotiations, following a Heads of Agreement which was signed in April 2009 and is a significant milestone for the proposed Browse LNG precinct. Woodside is the major equity holder in the proposed Browse LNG development which aims to commercialise the Brecknock, Calliance and Torosa gas and condensate fields in the Browse Basin, 425 km off the Kimberley coast. The precinct will limit LNG processing to this one site on the Kimberley coastline.

The development proposes offshore extraction and production facilities, pipelines to shore, onshore LNG and condensate production facilities, and associated export infrastructure at the Browse LNG precinct. Woodside is expected to make a final investment decision by mid-2012 and based on these time frames, it is anticipated LNG processing will commence in 2016-17. ■