



Mar/Apr 2010

KIMBERLEY LNG PRECINCT MONTHLY UPDATE

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WORK READINESS PROGRAM: GETTING CONTROL OF OUR FUTURE

PIC: MARCH JAMES PRICE POINT VISIT



The Kimberley Land Council has committed to take action to ensure Aboriginal people are best prepared to make a major contribution to the economic future of the Kimberley.

A successful application for the Commonwealth's Innovation Funding has enabled the Kimberley Land Council to devise a job readiness program targeting numeracy, literacy and social issues that impact on Indigenous people's ability to enter the workforce.

Employment adviser and Jabirr Jabirr Traditional Owner Wayne Barker said the program would ultimately work alongside existing employment service providers and training organisations to identify and overcome barriers preventing Indigenous people from engaging in mainstream employment.

"As the saying goes, you've got to walk before you can run and the Work Readiness Program is about acknowledging that whilst potentially there'll be hundreds of new job opportunities for our people in the near future we've got to ensure we have the capacity to meaningfully engage in these opportunities," he said.

"We'll be taking a long hard look at what has and hasn't worked in the past, and how we can build on the good practice of existing employment service operators."

KLC Executive Director Wayne Bergmann said the Work Readiness Program will build on other successful KLC-initiated programs, such as an early intervention literacy program targeting primary school aged kids.

"Through the gas hub negotiations we've been at the table with the highest level of government and industry, working on ways to address the social disadvantage of our people," he said.

"The lessons from past policy failures are irrefutable. Only by having Traditional Owners participating in the real economy can we close the gap between Indigenous people and mainstream Australia."

In the coming months the Work Readiness program will be trialled locally with the final program implementation expected in 2011.

culture and community

environment

economic opportunity

KIMBERLEY TRADITIONAL OWNERS SPEAK UP

TRADITIONAL OWNER NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (TONC) UPDATE

PIC: JAMES PRICE POINT



Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who made the effort to personally respond to our first edition of the LNG Precinct Monthly Update.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback from readers spoke of a community wanting to know more about the project, and more about what this will potentially mean for Traditional Owners.

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Louise Middleton's letter published 04/03/10 in the Broome Advertiser "Heavy industry risks" - a letter that was also sent personally to me.

I must firstly acknowledge that the issue of youth suicide is a private matter that is very close to my heart, as I know it is with many families across the Kimberley.

However, I felt it necessary to discuss with Mr Wilcox - and occasionally with the wider public - the raft of social disadvantage indicators that Traditional Owners are fighting to address by engaging in the proposed gas project negotiations.

If further industrialisation is to occur on the Dampier Peninsula we must ensure that appropriate environmental and cultural conditions are in place to protect our heritage, and that where possible we take the critical opportunity to improve the life chances of our people.

By being at the table in these negotiations we can ensure improved public services, counselling and support networks are

delivered to tackle the widespread social issues already crippling our community.

Furthermore, job opportunities (many of which will be separate from the LNG development), education programs and housing initiatives will provide sustainable, long-term solutions to help lift our people out of poverty.

As Ms Middleton correctly pointed out, the track record for both government and industry for delivering outcomes for Indigenous people through industrial development is not strong - we can't ignore the lessons of past policy failures.

Only by having Traditional Owners in the driver's seat, participating in the real economy can we close the gap between mainstream Australia and Indigenous people.

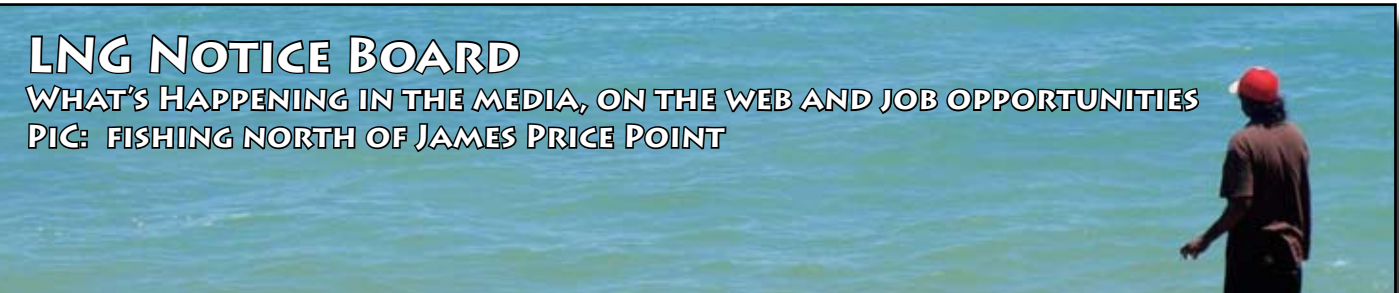
Ms Middleton's final point, speaking to the importance of mentoring structures and indigenous apprenticeship support is exactly the kind of outcome Traditional Owners are working to implement.

Once again, if you have any feedback or suggestions on this newsletter, please email tonc@klc.org.au.

Frank Parriman
TONC Chair

LNG NOTICE BOARD

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MEDIA, ON THE WEB AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES
PIC: FISHING NORTH OF JAMES PRICE POINT



TRADITIONAL OWNERS ON GOOLARRI TELEVISION
Running twice-a-day in March, TONC member Mary Tarran discusses the James Price Point LNG negotiations.



TRADITIONAL OWNER'S ON GOOLARRI RADIO
Check klc.org.au for a recent interview with Mary Tarran and Frank Parriman discussing the recent trip to Sydney.



JOB OPPORTUNITY AT KLC TRUST ADMINISTRATOR
For further information contact Anne Sigley the Kimberley Land Council on (08) 9194 0100 or email anne.sigley@klc.org.au



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TV INTERVIEW ON YOUTUBE
Brian James Doyle discusses the benefits of creating Kimberley based economic opportunities for Aboriginal people (on klc.org.au).



SYDNEY PROTEST

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

PIC: THE PROTEST



In mid-February Jabirr Jabirr Traditional Owners, supported by elders from neighboring communities, travelled to Sydney to protest the launch of the booklet *Kimberley at the Crossroads: The case against the gas plant* penned by retired judge Murray Wilcox.

Chair of the Traditional Owner Negotiating Committee Frank Parriman, said the protest was about ensuring the real position of affected Aboriginal communities was represented.

“What disappointed us most was that at no point did Mr Wilcox approach anyone from the Traditional Owner Negotiating Committee about our thoughts and concerns in relation to the proposed development,” he said.

“To travel so far from our traditional country to protest was intimidating, but we were supported by the local Traditional Owners who endorsed our position and later refused to give the event a welcome to country.”

Fellow Jabirr Jabirr Traditional Owner Anthony Watson said Mr Wilcox should’ve spoken with the TONC before writing his book.

“He hurt my feelings, and he hurt my people’s feelings,” he said.

“We’re trying to lift our people off welfare dependency to be real participants in the modern economy.”

“We see that by being at the table Traditional Owners can negotiate for high standards of protection for our cultural and environmental values, whilst also improving education, employment and life opportunities.”



PIC: FEBRUARY SYDNEY PROTEST



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MEETING CALENDAR

2nd March to 4th March: TONC

8th March to 10th March: Negotiation meeting

9th March to 10th March:

Traditional Owner Taskforce

11th March to 12th March: Kimberley Futures

7th April: Native Title meeting

13th, 14th and 15th April: TONC

27th April: KLC Board meeting

*Please note meetings times are a guide only, and are subject to change

KEY ACTIONS

INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT

Negotiations regarding the ILUA are

ongoing with the State Government and Woodside.

COMMONWEALTH ENGAGEMENT

Negotiations continuing via tri-partite forum (State, KLC and the Commonwealth).

ABORIGINAL SOCIAL IMPACT

Draft report sent to the State and

Commonwealth in late February.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Report will be sent to the State and

Commonwealth in March.

HERITAGE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Signed November 2009.

PIC: FEBRUARY BROOME SHS VISIT



PIC: FEBRUARY SYDNEY PROTEST



PIC: FEBRUARY INTERVIEW WITH GME



PIC: MEETING WITH WARREN MUNDINE

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Kimberley LNG Precinct Monthly Update is produced by the Kimberley Land Council (KLC).

The KLC is the Native Title Representative Body for the Kimberley region and as such provides assistance to Traditional Owners of the Kimberley to have their traditional interests in country recognized through the native title process.

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