

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

- 3 MAY 2012

Tuesday, 6 March 2012

5128. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

With regard to the development of the Browse Basin Gas Hub at James Price Point, I ask -

(1) In relation to the Premier's comments reported in the Australian Financial Review on 22 December 2011 which suggest that it is not feasible to pipe Browse gas to Karratha because 'higher costs would arise to develop new discoveries in the region' and that 'at some stage there is going to have to be a development on the Kimberley coastline', and I ask -

(a) to what new discoveries of gas is the Premier referring;

(b) which gas, aside from Browse gas, does the Premier foresee as being able to be processed at the James Price Point site;

(c) will the Premier rule out the possibility of gas from the Canning Basin being processed at James Price Point; and

(d) will the Premier rule out the possibility of gas from the Canning Basin being processed at James Price Point, even if Browse gas is processed elsewhere?

(2) In relation to the Premier's further comments reported in the same article that it was 'likely that more gas would be found in the southern Carnarvon Basin, obviating the need to pipe the gas from the Browse', what current need to pipe gas from the Browse to existing facilities near Karratha is the Premier referring to?

(3) In relation to the Premier's further comments in the same article 'hinting at a potential restructuring of the Browse venture, possibly involving new partners from India or China', will the Premier detail the possible new partners from India or China?

(4) If no to (3), why not?

(1a-d) The proposed Browse LNG Precinct will be the only location for processing gas on the Kimberley coastline and will therefore be available to process any new discoveries of gas in the region.

(2) As indicated in the article, there is no need to supply Browse Basin gas to existing facilities as the Carnarvon Basin remains prospective for natural gas.

(3-4) This is a matter for the Browse Joint Venture participants.

