

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Wednesday, 15 May 2013

Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development

I refer to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 1 May, 2013 in which the Minister for State Development was reported as stating that there was a lot of merit to building a port at James Price Point to service as a supply base for Woodside's Browse Basin operations as well as the Canning Basin shale gas ventures, and I ask:

- (1) Has the Department of State Development drawn up any plans to develop a port for a supply base for Browse Basin gas development at or near James Price Point or in any other area of the West Australian coast? If yes, will the Minister table the plans?
- (2) Does the Minister rule out the use of public funding to build:
 - (a) A port for a supply base for Browse Basin gas?
 - (b) A road to James Price Point to service the gas processing industry?
- (3) Has the Minister or the Department been in any discussions or meetings with companies other than Woodside interested in building gas refineries at James Price Point? If yes, who are these companies?
- (4) Has the government made a decision on the compulsory acquisition of land at James Price Point for gas refineries? If yes, when was this decision made?
- (5) If no to 4, when will the government make a decision on whether to proceed with compulsory acquisition?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

Department of State Development advises:

The Department of State Development has not drawn up any plans to develop a port for a supply base for Browse Basin gas.

(2a-b) The Government expects users to bear the cost of port facilities and associated infrastructure in Western Australia. The Broome Port Authority will manage the port facility at the Browse LNG Precinct under the jurisdiction of the *Port Authorities Act 1999*. The State

will carry out commercial negotiations with potential users to determine the financial arrangements that will apply for the construction and operation of those facilities.

(3) Government regularly promotes potential investment opportunities, including the Browse LNG Precinct, in a range of forums. The Hon. Member is encouraged to submit a FOI application for further information in terms of those present to ensure that appropriate commercial-in-confidence considerations can take place under the Freedom of Information Act.

(4-5) The Government will make an announcement when it has made a decision.

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