

Browse to Burrup option

By Ben Cranston

WOODSIDE has poured water on claims its Browse LNG development will end up on the Burrup saying the peninsula had always been a possible location for the project and a final decision was yet to be reached.

A Browse gas processing plant had been mooted for the Kimberley coast but United States engineering company KBR has announced Woodside awarded one of KBR's subsidiaries a concept and definition study for the Burrup option.

A Woodside spokeswoman said the Burrup had always been a possible development scenario and the Browse Joint Venture Partners continued to evaluate the option of processing the gas in the Kimberley.

She said the partners would not rule out processing Browse gas on the Burrup.

"Given the similarity in Joint Venture ownership of the Browse Basin Gas fields and the North West Shelf Venture, there is merit in evaluating the potential for synergies," she said.

"These are being explored as part of the evaluation work for this development theme.

"However, it is too early to say which, if either, concept will be selected.

"A number of concepts are being

studied for the commercialisation of the Browse gas fields and this includes all offshore close to the gas fields, as well as onshore in the Burrup or Kimberley region."

The Browse Joint Venture Participants aim to select a preferred location for the LNG processing facilities in the second half of 2008.

KBR was last week upbeat about its subsidiary Granherne being awarded the study contract.

On its website, KBR revealed subsidiary GVA Consultants was also expected to provide consultancy services for phase two of the study.

The Greens welcomed the news last week that Woodside was considering piping the Browse Basin Gas to a location away from the sensitive Kimberley wilderness coast.

"This looks like the remote Point Perpendicular is now saved from the ravages of being turned into a giant LNG processing hub," said Robin Chapple Greens candidate for Kalgoorlie.

"This is a fantastic win for the mighty efforts of the Kimberley people."

Mr Chapple said the Greens were concerned that whilst this may have been an "out of the frying pan, into the fire" position, at least it showed that Woodside was starting to listen to the Kimberley community.