

DO YOU WANT TO HELP PROTECT KIMBERLEY WHALES?

Write a Letter Today!

The Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, has the final say on whether the proposed Browse LNG precinct at James Price Point/Walmadan will go ahead. In making this decision, Minister Burke will consider 'matters of national environmental significance', including the iconic Humpback whale.

Minister Burke needs to hear from the community that James Price Point is an important Humpback whale nursery and that for this reason we don't want the LNG development to go ahead. We are calling on individuals to write Minister Burke a letter, telling him so.

Here are some tips for writing a powerful letter:

Make it short and snappy

Try to condense it on to one page. Your letter does not need to be lengthy or wordy to be taken seriously. Write it in your own words, with a simple summary of your main concerns

Introduce yourself

For example: *My name is x... I am a small business owner/scientist/teacher/nurse/lawyer... I've lived in Broome for xx years/I've visited Broome x times/I care about Broome because x...*



Tell him why Humpback whales matter to you.

For example: *Humpback whales are amazing, iconic creatures...
...They are a vulnerable species and are protected under both state and federal legislation...*

Outline the significance of the JPP area for the Humpback whale.

Remind the Minister that JPP is a significant place for Humpback whales.

For example:

*... Large numbers of Humpback whales migrate slowly past JPP each year.
... JPP is a Humpback whale nursing and calving ground.
... A recent community survey recorded over 200 calves playing, resting and nursing in the area.*

NB: You may like to read the two page summary of results attached to this email. It will give you some information you can use in your letter.



Outline your concerns about the Browse LNG development.

For example: ... I am concerned that a Browse LNG development at JPP will negatively impact the Humpback whale population and their nursing ground.
... *The proposed Browse LNG precinct has the potential to degrade Humpback whale habitat through activities such as acoustic pollution, built structures, ship strike, changing water quality and dredging.*
... *It is possible that such impacts will not only affect individual whales, but impact the population.*



Refer to the Minister's criticism of Japanese whaling

For example: ... *Minister Burke, on numerous occasions, you and most of the Australian public, have expressed outrage at the Japanese hunting whales in their Antarctic feeding grounds. Based on this criticism, don't you think that it is hypocritical to justify the building of a gas plant in their nursing ground?...*
... *It's not just harpoons that kill whales, activities associated with the Browse LNG precinct will too.*

Tell the minister you consider him responsible.

Make it clear that you consider that the Minister has a responsibility to show leadership and protect this important Humpback whale nursery.

For example: *Minister Burke, I understand that you have the final say on whether the gas proposal for James Price Point will go ahead. You must not let this happen.*

At the end, ask a question so that the minister has to respond to your letter.

For example: ...*Minister Burke, please tell me what actions you will take to ensure that the Humpback whale nursing ground at James Price Point is protected?...*
...*A recent community study shows that the whale research used for state approval of the Gas Plant was inadequate and underestimated the importance of the area to calving humpback whales, will you be calling for more in depth research before making your decision?...*

Send your letter via post, not email

Address your letter to:

The Honorable Tony Burke MP,
Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities,
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

NB. The correct salutation to Minister Burke is Dear Minister (i.e. not Dear Mr Burke or Dear Tony).



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