



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Senator for Western Australia

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PM SHOULD PULL GARRETT OFF KIMBERLEY GAS HUB

The Prime Minister should pull Peter Garrett off any federal decision related to a gas hub in the Kimberley WA Liberal Senator Mathias Cormann said today.

“The Prime Minister has to ensure any federal government decision is made based on the public interest and not a personal agenda of the Minister and his friends at Midnight Oil,” Senator Cormann said

“Peter Garrett has been hiding behind written statements and spokespeople for four days now.

“After four days the Minister is yet to answer the main question whether he is committed to ensuring a fair and objective assessment of a proposed gas processing plant in the Kimberley.

“The Minister has to come out of hiding and clarify his position in relation to the proposed development of a gas processing plant in the Kimberley,” Senator Cormann said.

“His long time friend from Midnight Oil Rob Hirst has come out and made some very serious assertions about the Minister’s intentions.

“Mr Hirst has told the world that the Minister has a personal bias against this important development for Western Australia.

“There are a lot of unanswered questions here and if the Minister is not prepared to come out and answer them openly and honestly then the Prime Minister has to act.

“What are the current federal issues the Minister is considering in relation to the development of a gas processing plant in the Kimberly under relevant federal legislation?,” Senator Cormann asked.

“Has the Minister at any time made any private statement to Mr Hirst or others that he will do all he can to prevent a gas processing plant being built in the Kimberley Region?

“If he hasn’t, has he corrected Mr Hirst’s misperception?

“Given the inevitable perception of a conflict of interest by the Minister on the basis of personal bias against this development, has he considered absenting himself from any decision about it?

These are but a number of the unanswered questions, which I have put on notice through the Senate late last night.

“If Minister Garrett can’t answer them, the Prime Minister has to act to assure West Australians that this project will be treated fairly and objectively by the Commonwealth,” Senator Cormann said.

Media Contact: Senator Cormann – 08 9325 4227 – 0411 874 546