



## Japan's INPEX weighs WA against NT for big gas project

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Japanese company INPEX announced today that it may build its proposed LNG plant at Darwin rather than at its currently preferred option of the Maret Islands off the remote Kimberley coast.

Today's announcement signals that environmental reviews currently being undertaken by the federal and state governments in the Kimberley could prompt INPEX to shift its 8 million tonnes per annum LNG plant to Darwin.

Environmental groups have expressed grave concern about the possible development of multiple LNG (liquefied natural gas) projects in the Kimberley.

Woodside's proposed Browse gas project is also located off the Kimberley coast. It is considering several development options, including an LNG plant on the coast, an LNG plant built offshore on Scott Reef and a pipeline linking the gas fields to existing LNG plants on the Burrup peninsula.

The state government has previously advised that it favours the development of a single gas processing hub at one location in the Kimberley.

INPEX's preferred site since 2004 has been the Maret Islands, located about 300 kilometres north of Derby.

The LNG plant would be used to process gas from the Ichthys gas field, 190km off the Kimberley coast.

Darwin is currently home to the 3.2mt pa Darwin LNG plant, developed by US oil and gas producer ConocoPhillips to process gas from its majority-owned Bayu Undan field in the Timor Sea.