

Question On Notice No. 5958 asked in the **Legislative Council** on **27 February 2008** by **Hon Giz Watson**

Question Directed to the: **Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development**
Minister responding: **Hon E.S. Ripper**
Parliament: **37** Session: **1**

Question

Japanese-owned INPEX Browse Ltd (INPEX) is proposing to establish a 12 million tonne per annum liquefied natural gas plant on the Maret Islands on the North-West Kimberley Coast. On or about 4 May 2006, the Office of Development Approvals Coordinator referred the 'Ichthys gas-condensate field development Maret Islands in the Bonaparte Archipelago off the Kimberley Coast' (the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development) to the Department of Environmental Protection (EPA). On or about 18 May 2006, the EPA recommended that the environmental assessment for the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development be set at the level of Environmental Review and Management Programme (ERMP). The Minister and Government has made much of the rigorous environmental scrutiny to which the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development will be subject. The Minister and Government have also made much of the economic benefits that the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development will deliver to the Kimberley Region and to the State of Western Australia more generally. I ask -

(1) Subject to all other State and Federal legislative requirements being satisfied, if, following the ERMP, the EPA recommends that, from an environmental point of view, the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development should not be permitted to proceed, does the Premier or Government or any other Ministers of the Crown have the power to over-ride the recommendations of the EPA and allow the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to proceed?

(2) Will the State of Western Australia be able to directly levy State Royalties on gas-condensate production from the INPEX-held WA-285P (the INPEX Ichthys Field)?

(3) If yes to (2), will the Minister please outline the basis upon which the State of Western Australia will be able to directly levy State Royalties on gas-condensate production from the INPEX Ichthys Field?

(4) If yes to (2), will the Minister please provide Government modelling as to the quantum and timing of any royalties that it expects to receive from the INPEX LNG development at the Maret Islands?

(5) Will the State of Western Australia be able to directly levy State Royalties on LNG production from the proposed INPEX LNG development at the Maret Islands?

(6) If yes to (5), will the Minister please outline the basis upon which the State of Western Australia will be able to directly levy State royalties on LNG production from the proposed INPEX LNG development at the Maret Islands?

(7) If yes to (5), will the Minister please provide Government modelling as to the quantum and timing of any royalties that it expects to receive from the INPEX LNG development at the Maret Islands?

(8) Has the Government or its agencies (including consultants acting on its behalf) undertaken economic modelling of the projected benefits and downsides of the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to the State of Western Australia?

(9) If yes to (8), will the Minister please outline the primary economic models that the Government or its agencies (including consultants acting on its behalf) has applied in evaluating the projected benefits and downsides of the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to the State of Western Australia?

(10) If yes to (8), will the Minister please table the results and reports of the primary economic modelling of the projected benefits and downsides of the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to the State of Western Australia?

(11) Has the Government or its agencies (including consultants acting on its behalf) undertaken economic modelling of the projected benefits and downsides of the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to the Kimberley Region?

(12) If yes to (11), will the Minister please outline the primary economic models that the Government or its agencies (including consultants acting on its behalf) has applied in evaluating the projected benefits and downsides of the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to Kimberley Region?

(13) If yes to (11), will the Minister please table the results and reports of the primary economic modelling of the projected benefits and downsides of the INPEX Kimberley Coast LNG Development to the Kimberley Region?

Answered on 20 March 2008

(1) In accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act (1986)*, the Minister for the Environment is the decision-making authority.

(2) No.

(3) - (4) N/A.

(5) No.

(6) - (7) N/A.

8) No.

(9) - (10) N/A.

11) No.

(12) - (13) N/A