

**Question On Notice No. 5957** asked in the **Legislative Council** on **27 February 2008** by **Hon Giz Watson**

Question Directed to the: **Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment**  
Minister responding: **Hon D.A. Templeman**  
Parliament: **37** Session: **1**

**Question**

Japanese-owned INPEX Browse Ltd is proposing to establish a 12 million tonne per annum liquefied natural gas plant on the Maret Islands on the North-West Kimberley Coast. INPEX Browse Ltd is wholly-owned by INPEX Corporation, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of INPEX Holdings Inc. (IHI). IHI, and hence INPEX Browse Ltd (IBL), is held 29.35 percent by the Japanese Government. Shareholders of IHI, and hence IBL, include (but are not limited to) Itochu Corporation, Japan Petroleum Exploration Corporation Co. Ltd, Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsui Oil Exploration Co. Ltd and Nippon Oil Corporation. Major customers of IBL are likely to include key Japanese electricity and gas utilities (e.g. Osaka Gas, Toho Gas Company, Tokyo Electric Power Co. Ltd and Tokyo Gas Company Ltd). I ask –

(1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) entered into any arrangement with INPEX Browse Ltd or its associated entities, including shareholders or customers to which it is likely to supply (hereafter referred to as INPEX), for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to the DEC, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the DEC, or parties sub-contracted to those parties), for the conduct of terrestrial or marine research at, or in the vicinity of, the Maret Islands?

(2) If yes to (1), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(3) If no to (2), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to) -

(a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;

(b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;

(c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided, and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;

(d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (whether Government or otherwise);

(e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;

(f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

(4) Has the DEC entered into any arrangement with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to the DEC, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the DEC, or parties sub-contracted to those parties), for the conduct of terrestrial or marine research in the Kimberley region?

(5) If yes to (4), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(6) If no to (5), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to) -

(a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;

(b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;

(c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;

(d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (whether Government or otherwise);

(e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;

(f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

(7) Has the DEC entered into any arrangement with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to the DEC, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the DEC, or parties sub-contracted to those parties), for the conduct of terrestrial or marine research outside of the Kimberley region?

(8) Has the DEC entered into any arrangement with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to the DEC, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the DEC, or parties sub-contracted to those parties), for the conduct of work by the DEC or parties associated with the DEC at or in the vicinity of the Maret Islands?

(9) If yes to (8), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(10) If no to (9), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to):

(a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;

(b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;

(c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;

(d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (whether Government or otherwise);

(e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;

(f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

(11) Has the DEC entered into any arrangement with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to the DEC, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the DEC, or parties sub-contracted to those parties), for the conduct of work in the Kimberley region?

(12) If yes to (11), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(13) If no to (12), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to) -

(a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;

(b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;

(c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;

(d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (whether Government or otherwise);

(e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;

(f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

(14) Has the DEC entered into any arrangement with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to the DEC, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of the DEC, or parties sub-contracted to those parties), for the conduct of work outside of the Kimberley region?

(15) If yes to (14), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(16) If no to (15), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to) -

(a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;

(b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;

(c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;

(d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (whether Government or otherwise);

(e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;

(f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

(17) Have any of the DEC Kimberley District Offices entered into any direct arrangements with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties sub-contracted to those parties) for the conduct of terrestrial or marine research in the Kimberley region?

(18) If yes to (17), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(19) If no to (18), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to):

(a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;

(b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;

(c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;

(d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (whether Government or otherwise);

(e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;

(f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

(20) Have any of the DEC Kimberley District Offices entered into any direct arrangements with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties sub-contracted to those parties) for the conduct of the DEC Kimberley District Offices' work in the Kimberley region (whether related to terrestrial or marine research or not)?

(21) If yes to (20), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these arrangements, including the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties?

(22) If no to (21), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to the nature of these arrangements and the terms under which INPEX has agreed to provide the said resources to the DEC and/or associated parties, including (but not limited to) -

- (a) the commercial A\$ value of these resources;
- (b) the corporate and trading names from which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided;
- (c) the dates upon which the said resources have been and/or are to be provided and the commercial A\$ value provided upon each date;
- (d) the corporate and trading names to which the said resources are to be provided (Government or otherwise);
- (e) specific projects benefiting from receipt of the said resources, and the names of the people responsible for management of those projects;
- (f) reports produced as a result of the receipt of the said resources, or that are currently in production or will be produced; and
- (g) any other information that might be relevant?

(23) Have any of the DEC Kimberley District Offices had discussions with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties sub-contracted to those parties) for the conduct of terrestrial or marine research in the Kimberley region?

(24) If yes to (23), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these discussions, including meeting minutes and file memoranda?

(25) If yes to (23), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to -

- (a) the dates on which these discussions were held;
- (b) the parties involved on each occasion, including the dates at which each party was in attendance; and
- (c) the nature of the discussions held, including their outcome?

(26) Have any of the DEC Kimberley District Offices had discussions with INPEX for the provision of resources (whether financial or otherwise) to DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties associated with the DEC (including parties that have been or are to be commissioned to undertake work on behalf of DEC Kimberley District Offices, or parties sub-contracted to those parties) for the conduct of the DEC Kimberley District Offices' work in the Kimberley region (whether related to terrestrial or marine research or not)?

(27) If yes to (26), can the Minister please table any documentation relating to these discussions, including meeting minutes and file memoranda?

(28) If yes to (26), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to -

- (a) the dates on which these discussions were held;
- (b) the parties involved on each occasion, including the dates at which each party was in attendance; and
- (c) the nature of the discussions held, including their outcome?

(29) Does the DEC have, or has it had, any staff (whether full-time or part-time) on full or part-time secondment to consultants associated with the INPEX terrestrial or marine studies in relation to its proposed Ichthys LNG project?

(30) If yes to (29), can the Minister please provide a detailed overview as to -

(a) the names of the staff involved, including their titles and areas of expertise;

(b) the length of the secondment(s);

(c) the nature of any financial compensation being received by the DEC for the secondment and its value;

(d) the work to be/ or undertaken by each of the staff members involved;

(e) whether the work undertaken by each of the staff members, and their findings, will be/ or was publicly made available and documented;

(f) whether the work undertaken by each of the staff members, and their findings, will be/ or was subject to public and independent peer review; and

(g) any other information that might be relevant?

**Answered on 2 April 2008**

(1) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

(4) No.

(5)-(6) Not applicable.

(7) No.

(8) No.

(9)-(10) Not applicable.

(11) No.

(12)-(13) Not applicable.

(14) No.

(15)-(16) Not applicable.

(17) No.

(18)-(19) Not applicable.

(20) No.

(21)-(22) Not applicable.

(23) No.

(24)-(25) Not applicable.

(26) No.

(27)-(28) Not applicable.

(29) No.

(30) Not applicable.