

EPA making no environmental assessment of Inpex proposal

Posted Wednesday, 11 June 2008

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority says it is not involved in assessing the environmental impact of the proposed Inpex gas plant in Darwin.

The authority's role is to provide independent advice to the Territory Government and scrutinise Government decisions.

But chairman Andrew Tupper says at this stage the EPA is not advising the Government on the environmental impacts of the possible gas plant.

"We are not dealing with existing project approvals. So, for example, we are not going to be involved in Inpex or something like that, unless the Government specifically asked us to make comments about the processes associated with such a thing."

The Independent member for Nelson Gerry Wood wants an independent agency to assess the environmental impacts of the project.

The Government is lobbying hard for Japanese company Inpex to build the plant at Blaydin Point in Darwin Harbour.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson has previously indicated such assessment is not necessary because if the plant goes ahead it will have to abide by safeguards already in Territory and Federal environmental laws.