

New gas discovery in the Kimberley's Browse Basin

By STEVEN HOUNSOME

A NEW gas discovery, announced by Japanese resource company Inpex, may soon result in an expansion of development in the Kimberley's Browse Basin.

The acreage where the discovery was made lies about 20km north-east of the giant Ichthys gas condensate field, and about 400km north-west of Broome.

It was first acquired by Inpex and partner Total E&P Australia in November last year, and drilling of the well began last month.

The 72m gas column was found at a water depth of 254m.

Inpex external affairs general manager Sean Kildare declined to comment on the likelihood of production going ahead.



MAP: The area of Inpex's new discovery (indicated in red).

“(We) are preparing the development of the Ichthys gas condensate field and will consider how the ... discovery could be developed taking into account potential synergy with the Ichthys development,” he said.