

## Inpex should build new suburb: Wood

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BRAND NEW: MLA Gerry Wood has suggested Inpex should build a new suburb to ease housing crisis. Picture: Peter Bennett

**INPEX should build a new suburb at Palmerston to house its workers, not just a workers' camp, Independent MLA Gerry Wood said.**

Mr Wood said the company should then hand the houses over to the NT Government when construction of its \$12 billion gas plant was finished, so they could be sold to first-home buyers and low-income earners.

He said Inpex should give something back in return for the right to build its gas plant in Darwin Harbour.

"Considering we are not even getting any of the gas, Inpex, a good corporate citizen, should build a small suburb on the edge of Weddell, close to Palmerston," he said.

Mr Wood said the suburb would ease the housing strain caused by the influx of Inpex workers and help provide more affordable housing.

"Their workers would be close to the Bladin Point site, close to Palmerston," he said.

Mr Wood said the suburb would need about 300 houses of different sizes, and they should be low-energy houses that could be cooled by natural breezes.

He suggested the suburb could be called Inpex or Calder, in honour of the late Territory politician and World War II veteran Sam Calder.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the recently established Territory Growth Planning Unit would work across government to make sure Darwin was ready for Inpex and would look at all options.

"The company will also look at a range of accommodation options, including construction camps similar to the ones we saw for the first Darwin LNG project," he said.

He said the NT Government was already committed to accelerating the release of up to 3700 new blocks of land and fast-tracking the development of the new suburbs of Johnston, Zuccoli and Mitchell.