

Debate over another gas plant at middle arm

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The CLP are calling for the Territory Government to find an alternative site for further gas development in Darwin.

One of the worlds biggest chemical suppliers, Dow Chemicals, has begun a pre-feasibility study to develop a billion dollar plant near the proposed Inpex gas plant in Darwin Harbour.

The Opposition Leader Terry Mills says the Middle Arm Peninsula isn't suitable for further industrial growth.

"[The] Government has made no effort whatsoever, and the only site that is available is the harbour," he said.

"Now that's clearly unsatisfactory if we are going to have all sorts of expansion and development downstream from gas.

"It clearly shows a Government with a lack of vision, no plan and no idea how to manage and lead the Territory."

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson said it's too soon for the Government to get involved and that Dow Chemicals hasn't lodged a formal application.

"They will do a commercial pre-feasibility study, once they have done that work and ironed out what the possibilities may or may not be then they will come and talk to Government. But there are no plans at the moment."

But Dow Chemicals said the Middle Arm area is the only option the company would consider for the project.

A spokesman for the company says it wouldn't make sense to look at alternative sites as it needs to be close to the gas plant and export facilities.