

Japanese firm confirms \$6b WA gas plan

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The top Japanese energy company, Inpex Holdings, has confirmed it is planning to invest up to \$6 billion to produce natural gas from the Browse Basin, off northern Western Australia, from 2012.

A company spokesman says the project is expected to produce about five to six million tonnes a year, or about 10 per cent of Japan's total annual gas imports.

It is aiming to pump the gas from the Ixis field, about 200 kilometres off the Kimberley coast.