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Federal Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane says Western Australian Premier Alan Carpenter has held a gun to Woodside Petroleum's head by forcing it to set aside 15 per cent of the gas it extracts for the local market, so a future multi-billion dollar project can go ahead.

Yesterday Woodside confirmed the arrangement while announcing a \$1.4 billion investment to push ahead with the Pluto Gas project, off the Pilbara coast.

Under the deal, Woodside can export 30 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the plant before it has to set aside 15 per cent of its gas for supply to the domestic market.

Mr Macfarlane has been strongly critical of the State Government's plan and he says Woodside was forced to accept the conditions or abandon the project altogether.