

Green groups welcome gas company move

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Green groups have welcomed the news that Inpex is considering building a gas processing plant in Darwin, rather than on the Marat Islands. (ABC Kimberley)

Western Australian environmental groups have welcomed an announcement that a Japanese gas company will assess the viability of

processing WA gas in Darwin.

Until now, Inpex had been trying to gain approval to build a gas plant on WA's Marat Islands to process gas from the Browse Basin off the Kimberley coast.

Today the company announced it would look at building an LNG plant at Middle Arm in Darwin.

Kimberley conservationist Malcolm Douglas says Inpex has given in to public pressure.

"They're starting to understand that they're never, ever going to get that LNG plant moving up on the Marat Islands," he said.

Inpex says the Marat Islands are still its preferred option but it must explore all realistic possibilities.

The State opposition leader, Troy Buswell, has blamed the state government for Inpex's decision to approach the Northern Territory.

"What it basically says is the government of Western Australia have dawdled, have dragged their heels in relation to this project and have now threatened a major \$23-billion investment in Western Australia," he said.