

Minister accuses Opposition of ignoring Kimberley concerns

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Eric Ripper says the Opposition is ignoring important environmental and cultural concerns in the Kimberley.

The Minister for State Development Eric Ripper has accused the state opposition of supporting ad hoc industrial development along the Kimberley coast.

The Japanese gas company Inpex has signed an agreement with the Northern Territory government that could allow it to build an LNG plant near Darwin to process WA gas, rather than at a site in the Kimberley.

The Opposition leader Troy Buswell says the WA government has dragged its heels in approving the project and has put WA at risk of losing millions of dollars.

But Eric Ripper says the Opposition is ignoring important environmental and cultural concerns.

"LNG processing in the West Kimberley will only go ahead with the fully informed consent of the traditional owners and their substantial economic participation," he said.

"The Leader of the Opposition it would appear, wants to be, or is wilfully ignorant of development in the West Kimberley."

Inpex offers reassurance on LNG plant

Inpex says it will continue to negotiate with the WA government to build a gas processing facility on the Kimberley's Maret Islands.

Sean Kildare from Inpex says the state government should not feel threatened by the company's decision to assess the viability of the Darwin location.

"All this announcement is, is Inpex having a very careful look at the options for the development of the Ichthys field and one of those clear options, credible with a value offering to the joint venture is the development in Darwin," he said