



MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 5 March 2008

Kimberley gas giant told to ‘get off the Marets’ First protest at company head office today

Conservation organisations, Kimberley tourism operators and Traditional Owners will unite **today** in a protest at the Perth head office of Japanese energy giant Inpex Holdings. A contingent of people have flown down from the Kimberley for the event. **A delegation led by Traditional Owners will hand a letter to Inpex Holdings at 1pm**

Inpex, in a joint venture with French energy company Total, wants to build a massive LNG industrial facility on the remote Maret Islands – part of the world-significant Kimberley coastline.

Kimberley Traditional Owner Albert Wigan said that industrialisation plans for the Kimberley coast would have a massive impact on the wildlife and cultural values of the region, with a big influx of people, and a huge increase in dredging, shipping, and pollution risks.

“There is no way an LNG facility could be on the Marets without destroying our way of life and the environment we have looked after for thousands of years.”

Wilderness Society WA (TWS WA) spokesperson Peter Robertson said that Inpex had misjudged the importance of the Kimberley to West Australians and now had to rethink its plans for the development of the Browse basin gasfield.

“Inpex tried to rush approval for its preferred site but the community is saying this region is too valuable in its current relatively unspoiled state to be turned into an industrial zone along the lines of the Burrup Peninsula.”

Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) spokesperson Chris Tallentire said the recently announced joint State-Commonwealth site selection process for an LNG ‘hub’ was a better way to proceed and Inpex should drop its unilateralist approach and join the process.

“After seeing the way the environmental and cultural values of the Burrup and Barrow Island have been ignored by recent LNG assessment processes we are determined to ensure that planning for the Kimberley is of the highest possible standard, not the *ad hoc*, piecemeal approach of the past.”

Save The Kimberley (STK) spokesperson Peter Tucker said that the impacts of the Inpex Marets proposal would be felt severely by the flourishing tourism sector which was already generating wealth and employment in the region.

“People from all around the world are coming to the Kimberley coast because of the unique experience it offers. We will not sit back and watch the magic of this place be squandered for the short term gain of a few overseas corporations.”

Kimberley Traditional Owners Albert Wigan and Neil McKenzie will hand deliver a letter written in Japanese explaining the importance of the Marets.

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