

\$5m carbon pledge fails to convince green group

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Green group Environs Kimberley has welcomed a resource company's pledge to spend \$5 million on a carbon offsets program, but says it would only account for 5 per cent of its greenhouse emissions.

Japanese firm Inpex wants to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant on the Kimberley's Maret Islands, in northern Western Australia, and has signed a deal with CO2 Australia to plant mallee trees in a bid to compensate for its projected greenhouse emissions.

Environs Kimberley's Gary Scott supports the move but says the project would only offset a small portion of the plant's emissions.

"But if they were going to offset all of their greenhouse emissions that they would produce from an LNG plant every year they would need millions of hectares of land and that's just not feasible," he said.

Inpex says carbon offsets are not the only way the company plans to tackle the greenhouse problem.

Spokesman Sean Kildare stresses the project is simply a trial and Inpex is committed to minimising greenhouse emissions.

"There's also the potential for cleaner production technology in the plant design and operation that reduces those emissions as best as possible in the first place, so it's carbon emissions that are avoided rather than the need to offset them," he said.