

## Gas plant step closer

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### **A \$12 BILLION gas plant could be up and running in Darwin by early 2014.**

Japanese resources company Inpex yesterday lodged a "notice of intent" with the Territory Government and environmental referrals with the Federal Government.

The NT is competing with Western Australia for the plant, which will be one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Australian history.

The plant would employ 3000 workers during construction and hundreds during operation.

Inpex would pay hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes to the NT Government during the 40-50 year life of the gas plant.

The Territory Government has not offered Inpex any financial incentives but Chief Minister Paul Henderson has promised his support for the plant to be built at Darwin Harbour.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said the plant should be built at Glyde Point, northeast of Darwin.

But Inpex's Sean Kildare said the project would be scrapped if it was forced to go Glyde Point, saying the "greenfield" site would take 10 years and several hundred million dollars of taxpayers' money to prepare.

Mr Kildare also said the Larrakia people, fishermen and conservationists objected to industrial development at Glyde Point, which has been declared a protected area.

He said the Darwin Harbour site was "gas ready".

Territory business has backed the harbour site.

Inpex will choose between Darwin and WA by the middle of this year.

He said heritage and sacred sites work has been done and last week marine, air quality and noise studies were started.

The major hurdle is the pipeline -- Darwin would require an 800km line from the Ichthys gas field, compared with only 200km for WA.