

Inpex looks east

BROWSE Basin gas developer Inpex is moving ahead with options that could leave the East and West Kimberley out of the equation.

While critics and pro gas hub parties argue over whether a gas hub should be situated on the Maret Islands, at sea or in the Pilbara, Inpex is pushing ahead with the possibility of locating near Darwin.

The company has begun examining the feasibility of a Darwin site and started accumulating information to put to the NT and Federal governments.

A company spokeswoman said Inpex had not abandoned the Maret Islands proposal, but it was looking at all its options.

Environmentalists are against the Maret Islands proposal and have vowed to fight it vehemently.

High profile people such as George Negus and Malcolm Douglas have thrown their support together in an effort to block the development

Local governments and business people have backed the proposal, with the Kimberley Land Council giving conditional support, as it believes the development could have fringe benefits for the region's Aboriginal population.