

Inpex deal could trigger early election

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Opposition leader Terry Mills. (Jack Kerr)

Northern Territory Opposition Leader Terry Mills suspects the Chief Minister will use a decision by the Japanese energy company Inpex to build a gas plant in Darwin as an excuse for an early election.

At a press conference in Palmerston yesterday, the Chief Minister Paul Henderson mentioned his right to call an early election several times.

But he also reiterated his belief that Governments should serve a full term, unless there are special circumstances.

The CLP leader Terry Mills now thinks those special circumstances will be a decision from Inpex on whether to build a \$12 billion gas plant.

"It's all engineered to provide the Chief Minister with a trigger to break his commitment to go the full term."

Mr Mills expects the Government will paint him as anti-development, but says he is right behind the project.

"It's a false line, because we have always supported Inpex. The issue is the location."

If the gas plant happens it will be the largest development in Territory history.