

# Environment centre calls for experienced resource minister

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The Northern Territory Environment Centre has called on the Government to make sure a senior experienced politician is given the natural resources and environment portfolio.

Labor went to the polls early saying it would have a better chance of securing a multi-billion dollar gas plant for Darwin Harbour.

The gas company Inpex is also considering a site in Western Australia.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson will announce the Government's new ministers tomorrow.

Charles Roche from the centre says he hopes the new resources and environment minister is chosen carefully.

"Clearly we need a senior and a very independent mind to be the environment minister when they have such weighty and important decisions to be made in the first few months of their tenure," he said.

Representatives from the Environment Centre met with Inpex last week and say they are expecting the gas company to announce the favoured location for the gas plant within the next two months.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman Inpex says the company welcomes any public submissions on the draft environmental guidelines released this week for a proposed plant.

She says Inpex it is still choosing between Darwin and a site in Western Australia for the project and will not be making a decision until later this year.

She says making the draft guidelines public is a mandatory step in the environmental assessment process and does not signal Darwin is the preferred option for the plant.

People have until September 1 to make submissions.