

WA has lost \$20b gas plant: Barnett

Tuesday, 26 August 2008



Opposition leader Colin Barnett believes WA has lost the project to the Northern Territory. (Graeme Powell)

The Opposition Leader, Colin Barnett, is calling on the Treasurer, Eric Ripper, to come clean on whether Western Australia has lost the support of the Japanese company Inpex to build a liquefied natural gas plant in the Kimberley.

The Northern Territory has been competing with Western Australia for the project, which is likely to cost more than \$20 billion.

Inpex has been waiting for the West Australian Government to release a list of potential sites.

Mr Barnett had a briefing with the company last week and says it is his belief that Inpex has decided to move the project to Darwin.

He has called on Mr Ripper or the Premier, Alan Carpenter, to say if Western Australia has lost the project.

"If Inpex has spoken to them or informed them, as I believe they have, then they have a responsibility to come clean with the Western Australian public," he said.

"How embarrassing, how humiliating for Western Australia, the world's leading miner, to lose this project."