



DONE DEAL: Inpex due to announce \$12 billion gas plant for Darwin.

Inpex 'done deal' for Darwin

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THE Territory has won the battle for a \$12 billion gas plant.

A well-informed source told the *Northern Territory News* last night that Japanese resources company Inpex would tell the NT Government on Thursday that it had won the race against Western Australia.

Inpex chiefs were in Darwin yesterday for talks with Government.

WA's new Premier Colin Barnett said he would hold last-ditch talks with Inpex today in a bid to save the project.

But he conceded that a decision had already been made to build the LNG plant in Darwin.

"As I understand it the decision had been made to take that project to Darwin, now whether they (Inpex) will re-consider that decision I guess remains to be seen," he said.

But the project would still need Commonwealth environmental approval and the Federal Department of Environment said it was still waiting for an environmental impact study before it can properly assess the WA proposal to put the plant on the Maret Islands in the Kimberley region.

If the area is deemed to be of national environmental importance the Commonwealth can override any decision made by the WA Government.