

CME not surprised by WA's risky reputation

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That WA is considered Australia's most risky state for resource development is "no surprise to the resources and energy sectors", the Chamber of Minerals and Energy said today.

According to ResourceStocks' 2008 World Risk Survey, which surveyed of 3000 senior mining and oil and gas industry executives worldwide, concerns about red tape, green tape, land access and infrastructure dragged WA down to 12th place in the survey of 74 countries or regions.

CME chief executive Reg Howard-Smith said the result reinforced the need for reform of the State's mining and exploration approvals process as well as demonstrating the need for a long term vision and plan for the development of the State.

"This is an opportunity for the new State Government to demonstrate strong leadership and prioritise the deep approvals reforms needed to streamline exploration and development approvals," he said.

The CME favours a risk-based approach, reducing duplication of approvals at State and National level and ensuring state government agencies are well resourced to manage those issues, it said in an announcement.

"We strongly support a review of exploration and development approvals processes and well-resourced government agencies to ensure these projects can get of the ground in the most efficient, effective and timely way," he said.

The survey finding follows Japanese gas giant Inpex's decision to build its \$25 billion gas processing plant in the Northern Territory instead of WA's Kimberley region, citing "certainty" as the location's most attractive feature.

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