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**ICHTHYS PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RELEASED**

The Ichthys Project joint venture (INPEX Browse, Ltd. 76%, Operator, and Total E&P Australia 24%) today reached a significant milestone with the release of its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for an 8 week public review and comment period.

The Draft EIS applies to all aspects of the proposed Ichthys Gas Field Development Project, including the:

- offshore processing facilities at the Ichthys Field in the Browse Basin, 200 kilometres off the coast of Western Australia;
- subsea gas pipeline to Darwin; and
- onshore processing facilities in Darwin.

The Project is designed to produce 8.4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and 1.6 million tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) per annum, along with 100,000 barrels of condensate per day at peak. The operating life of the Project is expected to be 40 years.

The Draft EIS is the culmination of several years of comprehensive surveys and studies to define the:

- existing natural and social environment;
- potential environmental impacts due to construction and subsequent operation activities;
- social and economic benefits and impacts from the Ichthys Project; and
- proposed management controls to limit potential impacts.

INPEX Browse Managing Director Seiya Ito said the Draft EIS demonstrates that the Ichthys Project can be developed in a manner that is environmentally and socially sustainable, while delivering significant economic benefits to the Australian and Northern Territory communities.

“Development of the Ichthys Project promises to deliver social and economic benefits to the people of Darwin, the Northern Territory and Australia through direct and indirect employment, training and business opportunities, and the support of community activities,” Mr Ito said.

“Economic modelling for the Ichthys Project indicates the Australian economy will benefit by an estimated \$3.5 billion annually. This includes an expansion of the Northern Territory economy by an average of nearly 18% annually.

“In addition, the Ichthys Project can play a part in securing Australia’s place as a leading world producer of LNG, the cleanest of all fossil fuels.”

The Ichthys Project joint venture recently donated \$3 million to support construction of the Larrakia Trade Training Centre at the Darwin Business Park. INPEX also supports a number of local community events in Darwin including Fred’s Pass Show, Palmerston Festival, Australia Day Fun Run Walk and the Darwin Harbour Cleanup Day.

As part of the rigorous EIS process, INPEX has completed a range of detailed environmental and social studies, including:

- marine ecological studies in Darwin Harbour, along the offshore pipeline route and at the offshore Ichthys Gas Field;
- terrestrial ecological studies of potentially affected areas in the vicinity of Blaydin Point;
- geographic and landform studies;
- air and water quality monitoring;
- dredging impact modelling;
- wastewater discharge and emissions modelling;
- visual simulations of the proposed development;
- heritage studies, including Indigenous and maritime; and
- socio-economic impact and growth assessments.

INPEX will respond to submissions received during the public review period and responses will be published in a supplement to the Draft EIS. Australian and Northern Territory regulators will then assess the Draft EIS and individually prepare assessment reports, which will be forwarded to the respective ministers responsible for environmental approval of the Ichthys Project. Approval by both governments is required before the Project can proceed.

Mr Ito encouraged the community to get involved in the review process.

“The community’s contribution to the evaluation of the Ichthys Project Draft EIS is very welcome and can only improve the quality and integrity of the assessment process, leading to better outcomes for the Project and for the community.”

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS and further details regarding the public review process are available at:

- [www.inpex.com.au](http://www.inpex.com.au)
- [www.nt.gov.au/nretas](http://www.nt.gov.au/nretas)

The public review and comment period closes on Friday 10 September 2010.

## **ENDS**

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### **About INPEX**

INPEX CORPORATION is a worldwide oil and gas exploration and production company currently involved in more than 70 projects across 26 countries. INPEX is ranked in the Top 50 global petroleum companies and is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. INPEX has been a part of the Australian business community since 1986 and is involved in a number of projects in Australia and the Timor Sea, including the large-scale Ichthys Project, Van Gogh Project, Ravensworth Project, Bayu-Undan Development and Darwin LNG.

### **About the Ichthys Project**

The Ichthys Project is a Joint Venture between INPEX Browse Ltd (76%, the Operator) and Total E&P Australia (24%). Gas from the Ichthys Field, in the Browse Basin offshore of Western Australia, will undergo preliminary processing offshore to remove water and raw liquids, including condensate. The gas will then be exported to the onshore processing facilities in Darwin via an 885km subsea pipeline. The Ichthys Project is expected to produce 8.4 million tonnes of LNG and 1.6 million tonnes of LPG per annum, along with 100,000 barrels of condensate per day at peak.