

21 May 2008

Commonwealth & Northern Territory Environmental Referrals for the Ichthys Field

INPEX Browse, Ltd. (INPEX), as the Operator of the Ichthys Joint Venture (between INPEX and Total E&P Australia), submitted a Referral to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) on 5 May 2008 to consider development of an LNG plant at Blaydin Point on Middle Arm Peninsula, near Darwin.

This Referral represents an initial statement of advice to the Commonwealth Government on the Ichthys Field Development Project as required under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth).

It follows similar advice (in the form of a Notice of Intent) submitted to the Northern Territory Government's Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) under the Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (NT) on 27 March 2008.

Together, these submissions initiate the environmental assessment process for the Project by both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments under their respective environmental acts and signal the start of more detailed social, economic and environment studies for the site.

The Joint Venture is considering its development options for its Ichthys Field, which is located in the Browse Basin off the northern Western Australian coast. The favoured option remains the Maret Islands off the Kimberley coast but Middle Arm Peninsula, near Darwin is being considered as a viable alternative, among other options.