

Foreword



On behalf of INPEX Browse, Ltd. and in cooperation with our joint venturer, Total E&P Australia, I am pleased to present this draft environmental impact statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed Ichthys Gas Field Development Project.

INPEX has been a member of the Australian business community since 1986. In 2000 INPEX discovered the giant Ichthys gas and condensate field and since then we have worked continuously toward developing this world-class resource in a manner that is technically and economically viable, and environmentally and socially responsible.

This document presents a comprehensive description of the Ichthys Project, the natural and socio-economic environment in which it will be developed and the actual and potential impacts it will have. As the cleanest of all fossil fuels, LNG is an energy source appropriate for today's carbon-constrained world. It is my belief that this Draft EIS demonstrates a sound case supporting approval of the Ichthys Project.

The commercial development of the Ichthys Project promises to deliver substantial social and economic benefits to the people of Darwin, the Northern Territory and Australia through the creation of employment and training opportunities, improved infrastructure, and the significant economic stimulus it will provide.

In designing the Ichthys Project, INPEX and its contractors have carried out comprehensive environmental surveys in and around Darwin Harbour, at the Ichthys Field and along the subsea pipeline route from the field to Darwin. Extensive socio-economic studies have also been undertaken to identify the benefits that will flow from this development.

In addition, this Draft EIS has been prepared through a process of extensive consultation with relevant government agencies and non-government organisations, as well as through engagement with the broader community at public forums and briefings.

As both the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government regulators decided on a joint assessment process, the Draft EIS addresses the requirements of both jurisdictions and has been prepared in accordance with the published guidelines.

I thank all those who have contributed to this process to date and I would now like to invite all members of the Northern Territory and broader Australian communities to review this document and provide feedback on the proposed Ichthys Project.

Your contribution to the evaluation of the Ichthys Project Draft EIS will be very welcome and can only improve the quality and integrity of the assessment process leading to better outcomes for all.

Seiya Ito
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INPEX Browse, Ltd.