



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

**environs**  
**KIMBERLEY**  
INC

PO Box 2281 BROOME WA 6725

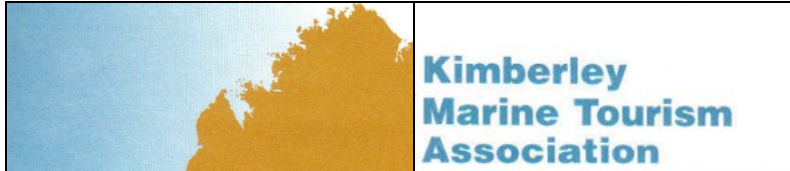
Phone: 08 91921922

Fax: 08 91925538

Email: [envrkimb@broome.wt.com.au](mailto:envrkimb@broome.wt.com.au)

Web: [www.environskimberley.org.au](http://www.environskimberley.org.au)

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY FOR THE KIMBERLEY ("CHEAK")



Media Release

25<sup>th</sup> October 2007

### **Kimberley locals confront Japanese petroleum giant Inpex**

Last night Broome experienced one of its biggest protest actions as about 60 local people confronted Japanese oil company Inpex over its plans to develop an industrial complex on the Maret Islands in the north Kimberley.

Holding banners written in Japanese and English, the protestors called on Inpex to halt its stated plans to develop in the beautiful and remote North Kimberley. Instead, protestors are calling for Inpex and all gas companies working in the Browse Basin to commit to an efficient process that will conserve key natural and cultural places and limit development to a single hub.

Kevin Blatchford, President of the KMTA said: "Make no mistake people's passions are burning over this issue. Anyone who was there could feel it. We love this place and will fight tooth and nail to protect it. It's a big ask for us to accept any industrialization in this incredible region but if there is to be any it should be in one single place and that's obviously not the Maret Islands."

Conservationists have raised concerns about the impact of industrial development on turtles, whales, dugong, coral reefs, islands and other values that make the Kimberley a scientific and tourism icon.

Maria Mann, of local conservation group, Environs Kimberley said: "The Kimberley has been neglected by successive Governments and now they've been caught napping because multinational gas companies are rushing in. Who is calling the shots here? Some companies are starting to open themselves up for real dialogue but Inpex seems intent on crashing through – trying to defend decisions it has already made."

**Footage of the protest is available from: Kevin Blatchford, Kimberley Marine Tourism Association/Save the Kimberley - Mob: 0418 522403**

*Media contacts:*

*Kevin Blatchford, Kimberley Marine Tourism Association/Save the Kimberley - Mob: 0418 522403*

*Maria Mann, Environs Kimberley - Mob: 0427 935052*

*Peter Tucker, Save the Kimberley - Mob: 0407 006474*