



*Save the Nature of the Kimberley*

**environs  
KIMBERLEY  
INC**

## **MEDIA RELEASE.....MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Appeal Win Sends Message to Inpex**

The Conservation Council of WA and Environs Kimberley are claiming a win for the environment today after the Minister for the Environment partially upheld an appeal against Kimberley gas proponent Inpex. The company plans to clear 0.7ha on the Maret Islands to undertake geotechnical drilling for a proposed LNG plant.

In making the decision, the Minister stated that, "In relation to the environmental issues raised in respect to the proposed clearing, it is acknowledged that the Maret Islands possess high conservation values. The identification of the islands as a potential Class A nature reserve confirms this."

The Minister determined that whilst the area in question was small (0.7ha), the high conservation value of the islands meant that the proposal approved by the EPA needed to be strengthened by additional conditions to avoid impacts on the islands fragile flora and fauna.

Inpex's future plans include construction of an LNG plant that would cover 80% of both North and South Maret Islands. The high conservation values of these islands cannot possibly be protected with this level of land clearing and construction.

The Conservation Council and Environs Kimberley are campaigning for Government to lead a regional strategic assessment process that will guide the management, protection and development of the precious and iconic Kimberley coast

Maria Mann, Director of Environs Kimberley said: "The Minister's statement about the A-Class values of the Maret Islands should sound as a warning bell to Inpex. They need to stop barging ahead with this environmentally damaging proposal and come to the table with the broader community to look at options for development."

Chris Tallentire, Director of the Conservation Council of WA said: "Despite increasing concern, Inpex is refusing to meaningfully engage with the community about options for their Kimberley LNG development. If they continue on this path they are likely to find themselves facing serious opposition from the community."

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