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Green groups urge immediate Federal action on INPEX

Cautious optimism on detail of assessment process

Key environmental groups Environs Kimberley and Conservation Council of WA welcome Environment Minister Peter Garrett's recent announcement to conduct a broad regional assessment of the Kimberley.

'We understand that the assessment will look at natural values as well as cultural and economic values, and is aimed at avoiding *ad hoc* development in this magnificent area,' said Environs Kimberley director Maria Mann.

'We are keen to learn about the details of the assessment process, the timeframes, and the opportunity for community cooperation with the State and Federal Governments.

'We see the assessment work as a natural progression of the work being conducted by the WA Government's Northern Development Taskforce.

'We are, however, alarmed to learn that the Minister is saying development projects will be considered in the "normal course of events". The implication is that we could still be facing "business as usual" for Browse LNG.' Ms Mann said.

Conservation Council of WA director Chris Tallentire said, 'We urge Minister Garrett to use his powers to get INPEX and Total off the Maret Islands now, and to require the company to engage in the new hub process.

'We look forward to meeting Minister Garrett to discuss the assessment process further,' said Mr Tallentire.

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