



## DARWIN HARBOUR DRILLING ACTIVITY

**INPEX is undertaking nearshore drilling activities in the waters around Blaydin Point in Darwin Harbour (see map above) from September to November 2009.**

INPEX on behalf of the Ichthys Joint Venture – INPEX (Operator, 76%) and Total (24%) – plans to develop a world-class gas and condensate reserve called the Ichthys Field, located in the Browse Basin 200 kilometres offshore Western Australia.

INPEX is proposing to build the Ichthys Project's Onshore facilities at Blaydin Point on Middle Arm Peninsula in Darwin Harbour. The nearshore drilling program is part of the Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) phase in which plans for the Onshore marine facilities are defined, designed and evaluated in more detail.

The purpose of the drilling program is to investigate the sub seabed conditions for the load-out jetty and proposed dredging areas, including the shipping channel and turning basin. This work follows INPEX's phase one nearshore drilling program which was completed in November last year.





Jack-up barges similar to these will undertake the drilling activities. The barge is 25m long and 10m wide.

## How the drilling works

Two jack-up barges will drill boreholes 120 millimetres in diameter and up to 40 metres in depth with the object of collecting core samples of the harbour seabed for laboratory analysis.

## How long will it take?

The drilling program will take two to three months to complete, with the anticipated finishing date in November. Drilling will be carried out during daylight hours, seven days a week.

## Noise

There will be some noise associated with drilling activities that could be heard by the general public if they are in close proximity to the jack-up barges.

As long as the general public remain outside the 50m safety exclusion zone there will be no safety issues relating to noise.

Some marine mammals are sensitive to noise and may avoid the area. However, the noise levels would not cause any physiological harm to marine animals.

## Safety

INPEX has extensive experience with this type of work and has conducted similar programs in locations throughout the world. INPEX will carry out the program in compliance with Darwin Port Corporation safety regulations.

A designated safety zone of 50m minimum clearance will apply to each of the jack-up barges and harbour users should observe this for their own safety.

## Maritime Heritage and the Environment

INPEX has completed detailed mapping of the harbour seabed to identify wrecks and potentially environmentally sensitive sites. It has a comprehensive environmental management plan in place for all nearshore drilling activities. Mangrove vegetation will not be impacted by the drilling program.

## About INPEX

INPEX CORPORATION is a worldwide oil and gas exploration and production company currently involved in more than 70 projects across 26 countries. INPEX is ranked in the Top 50 global petroleum companies and is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. INPEX has been a part of the Australian business community since 1986 and is involved in a number of projects in Australia and the Timor Sea, including the Ichthys Project, the Griffin Fields Project and Darwin LNG.