

# INPEX is taking the piss

***Japanese-owned INPEX exports more gas than is used in NSW, Victoria and SA combined, pays no royalties or petroleum tax and pays virtually no corporate tax. Despite this, INPEX regularly criticises Australian Government policies.***

**Mark Ogge and Rod Campbell, April 2025**

INPEX is a Japanese corporation that extracts gas from Commonwealth waters off Western Australia and pipes it to Darwin where the gas is processed into liquefied natural gas (LNG), loaded onto ships and exported.

## **INPEX is 100% foreign owned**

INPEX is 21% owned by the Japanese Government, the rest is traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.<sup>i</sup>

## **INPEX produces gas entirely for export**

INPEX exports 9 million tonnes of LNG from Australia every year. This is more gas than is used by households and businesses in NSW, Victoria and South Australia combined.<sup>ii</sup>

## **INPEX gets Australia's gas for free**

INPEX does not pay for the gas it exports from Australia because the Australian Government does not charge a royalty on most offshore gas extraction.<sup>iii</sup> Royalties are a payment gas companies should make for the right to extract and sell Australia's gas.

## **INPEX pays \$0 PRRT**

No gas company, including INPEX, has ever paid Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) on gas they have exported from Australia.<sup>iv</sup> INPEX does not expect to pay PRRT until at least 2030.<sup>v</sup>

## **INPEX pays virtually no corporate tax**

According to Australian Tax Office data, INPEX Holdings Australia, has reported over \$21 billion in revenue and paid zero company tax over the last eight years.<sup>vi</sup> INPEX's joint venture entity *Ichthys LNG Pty Ltd* has never paid corporate tax despite \$33

billion of income since 2018. Other INPEX entities make modest company tax payments most years, usually in the single-digit millions.

## **INPEX pollutes Darwin, risking public health**

INPEX's LNG terminal emits toxic chemicals into the air just four kilometres from the Darwin CBD, vastly exceeding estimates it gave the public endangering public health.<sup>vii</sup>

## **INPEX loves a whinge**

Despite such favorable treatment, INPEX complains regularly about Australian Government policies. It once claimed that Australian climate policy threatened world peace.<sup>viii</sup>

## **Japan on-sells more gas than Australia sells to it**

Despite claims that Australian gas is essential to keep the lights on in Japan, Japanese Government data shows that Japan on-sells more gas than Australia exports to it.<sup>ix</sup>

## **What to do about INPEX and other Big Gas companies?**

Australia's 2025 election campaign has seen all sides of politics acknowledge that Australia has no problem with gas supply, but a big problem with gas exports. The next Australian Parliament has an opportunity to change Australia's gas policy settings, reducing domestic prices, raising more revenue from gas corporations and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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<sup>i</sup> INPEX (2022) *Tax Transparency Report*, <https://www.inpex.com.au/media/4wknx3jh/2022-inpex-aus-tax-transparency-report.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Campbell (2025) *Demonstrating Australia's gas export problem: INPEX vs Aus states*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/news/category/off-the-charts/>

<sup>iii</sup> Ogge (2024) *Australia's great gas giveaway*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/australias-great-gas-giveaway/>

<sup>iv</sup> Australian Treasury (2023) *Australian Budget 2023-24*, BP1, P.180, [https://archive.budget.gov.au/2023-24/bp1/download/bp1\\_2023-24.pdf](https://archive.budget.gov.au/2023-24/bp1/download/bp1_2023-24.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> ACIL Allen (2021) *Economic and Social Contribution of Ichthys LNG in the Northern Territory*

<sup>vi</sup> ATO (2024) *Corporate tax transparency reports*, <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/corporate-transparency>

<sup>vii</sup> Fitzgerald (2024) *This LNG plant near Darwin city releases thousands of tonnes of toxic chemicals. The impacts are not being assessed*, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-14/inpex-ichthys-lng-plant-darwin-nt-vocs-emissions-increase/103668268>

<sup>viii</sup> Greber (2023) *The very un-Japanese speech that burst Australia's gas bubble*, <https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/the-speech-that-burst-labor-s-gas-bubble-20230404-p5cxyd>

<sup>ix</sup> IEEFA (2024) *Japan's LNG resales into overseas markets hit record high in FY2023 as domestic demand plummeted*, <https://ieefa.org/resources/japans-lng-resales-overseas-markets-hit-record-high-fy2023-domestic-demand-plummeted>