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To assess or not to assess; that is the question! Company says no environmental assessment is required for oil and gas service port in pristine waters!

Despite construction having already been completed, the public will have until 14 July 2015, to provide comment to the government about whether the oil and gas marine supply base planned for Melville Island should undergo an environmental impact assessment. The company doesn't think it should!

Following Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt's request, the Department of the Environment has received a referral from the operator of Port Melville, Ezion Offshore Logistics Hub (Tiwi) Pty Ltd for the operation of the Port as a Marine Supply Base to service the offshore oil and gas industry.

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 provides the public with a 10 day window to have their say about whether the marine supply base should have to obtain an environmental approval.

The Tiwi Islands are sites of international conservation significance, being home to no less than 38 threatened species, including the endangered Tiwi Masked Owl and Olive Ridley Turtle. Principal Lawyer at the EDO Northern Territory, David Morris stated, "This is an important opportunity the public to make clear to the company that this development is not a fait accompli; despite its pretty much already completed construction. This referral should have come far earlier and its critical that the marine supply base operation undergo the scrutiny of a full environmental impact assessment".

"This is not about stifling economic development for the Tiwi Islands," said Mr Morris, "this is about ensuring that developments undergo appropriate scrutiny to ensure that threatened species aren't harmed and future generations are not left with disastrous environmental legacies".

The EDO can assist people with making submissions. Further information can be found at: [Department of Environment website](#)

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