Chief Minister, Terry Mills, has used Question Time today to update Territorians on the important project to secure the future of the Pacific Aluminium operation in Gove.

Mr Mills said he had spoken to the Prime Minister and would be continuing negotiations with the Commonwealth while in Canberra next week for COAG.

“Securing Gas to Gove remains a top priority of my Government,” Mr Mills said.

“We remain determined to reach a positive solution to this problem.

“In a few short weeks, I have met with all the strategic players involved in the decisions surrounding building a pipeline and delivering gas to Gove and these discussions are ongoing.

“The Gove Aluminium Operation is the nucleus of economic activity in Eastern Arnhem Land, with the refinery employing some 1580 staff.

“Next week, I will be speaking with community stakeholders from Nhulunbuy to inform locals and provide assurance that every effort is being made to secure the town and region’s future and that our working group is fighting hard to deliver a solution for their benefit.

“The solution to the future of the Gove plant has national implications as well as Territory wide impacts and I am pleased to report that the Commonwealth’s Export Finance and Insurance Corporation have been asked to prepare a report on the construction of a gas pipeline to Gove and that we have the ongoing support of Minister Martin Ferguson.

“This agreement can only come about through the aggregation of existing and as yet untapped gas fields, a process which is well under way.

“I recognise the work of Pacific Aluminium, ENI, Santos and other gas explorers to help progress this project.

“I will leave no stone unturned in securing gas to Gove.”

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