DRIVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

3 April 2013

The NT Government is driving employment opportunities to expand the Territory economy through an innovative partnership.

Chief Minister Adam Giles today handed over keys to a 36-seater bus that will be used to offer locals the opportunity to train as bus drivers to work in the resource industry, tourism or in school and urban network bus operations.

Mr Giles said the vehicle, which can transport up to 71 passengers, is being loaned to Advanced Training International so Larrakia Trade Training Centre students can be taught to drive a bus.

“As the NT economy continues to grow and more people come to live in the Territory, the demand for passenger transport services will continue to increase,” Mr Giles said.

“It is important that we offer our local community the opportunity to benefit from this demand and gain employment.

“Training will be provided on the road and in the classroom to upskill NT drivers to bus drivers to ensure they are job-ready and capable of working for major projects like the Ichthys onshore gas facility that will see thousands of workers transported daily from the Howard Springs workers camp to Blaydin Point.”

The Ichthys LNG project is the main financial supporter of the Larrakia Trade Training Centre.

The bus is being loaned to Advanced Training International by the Government’s Darwin Bus Service and will be used for training in conjunction with a bus already loaned by Buslink.

Mr Giles said it was a good example of cooperation of the NT Government and local bus operators to address a potential skills shortage in the local transport industry.

The Department of Business is supporting the training under a pre-employment program.

Advanced Training International chief executive Steve Balch said the training program would offer graduates great opportunities to take their careers in the transport sector as far as their ability and desire can take them.

“We are delighted to assist them into the Territory workforce, and to see them now ‘work ready’ to play their part in delivering a high standard of bus driving for the region,” Mr Balch said.

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