Peter Styles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Business

Delegation to restore confidence at key oil and gas conference

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Restoring confidence in the Northern Territory’s Oil and Gas potential in the wake of Labor’s commitment to an indefinite ban on onshore gas will be a major focus of an NT Government delegation to the Australasian Oil and Gas Expo 2016 (AOG 2016) in Perth this week.

Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles will lead a group of 15 Territory business people and government representatives to take part in the event which is Australia’s largest oil and gas supply and service expo and conference.

Mr Styles said ensuring Northern Territory businesses benefit from opportunities on offer through the Oil and Gas Industry which would, in turn, generate jobs for Territorians would be the other key aim.

“AOG attracts delegates from around the world and is an important opportunity for Northern Territory businesses to showcase local industry capability and to gain an insight into upcoming contracts open for tender,” Mr Styles said.

“It will offer new and on-going commercial opportunities for a range of local companies from a variety of industry sectors, including metal fabrication and civil and electrical engineering, surveying, information technology, personnel recruitment and FIFO accommodation provision.

“It will also be a chance to do some urgent damage control following Labor’s reckless and ill-informed announcement it would ban onshore gas in the Territory which puts at risk 6,300 future full time positions in the NT and revenue of up to $460 million a year.

“The NT Government has also received inquiries with regard to compensation for NT exploration permits issued under the previous Labor Government.

“It is clear the Opposition Leader’s pledged ban is a major concern for the future of many Territory businesses such as Fingers Specialised Metal Fabrication (SMF).”

Managing Director of Fingers SMF Mark Taylor said his company had been part of the Team NT approach to AOG for many years.

He said his business had been operating for almost 25 years in the Territory and currently employs 35 local workers.
“Any ban on onshore gas would hurt our business and I believe would be devastating for many others,” Mr Taylor said.

“The great majority of our work is generated through the oil and gas industry which we see as a critical component to our business.

“The AOG Expo provides a real opportunity for us to network with some of Australia’s major oil and gas companies.

“We have been part of the delegation for many years and have achieved great results in terms of real business being done.”

Mr Styles said the participation at AOG 2016 is the first in a series of major petroleum industry events this year which will see the Northern Territory Government working with supply and service companies to attract business to the Territory.

He said preparations are underway for strong Team NT presences at the LNG18 International Conference in Perth in April, the APPEA Conference & Exhibition in Brisbane in June and SEAAOC in Darwin in September.

“The Country Liberals Government understands the importance of the Oil and Gas Industry to the future of the Northern Territory and driving real and tangible outcomes for business, industry and the economy,” Mr Styles said.

“We have implemented the World’s best practices environmental regulations for onshore gas exploration as part of our plan to create opportunities, deliver more jobs while protecting the environment and enhancing our unique way of life.”

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