Northern Gas Pipeline on Chief Minister’s China Agenda

2 November 2016

Chief Minister Michael Gunner today met with Chinese Government and industry officials in Beijing – including one of the key stakeholders in the Northern Gas Pipeline - ahead of the NT-Rizhao Economic Summit this week.

“Construction of the Northern Gas Pipeline, which is due to be completed in 2018, will create more than 900 jobs during construction, of which more than 60 per cent could be filled by Territorians,” Mr Gunner said.

“There will also be ongoing maintenance and operations teams based in Tennant Creek.”

Jemena – the private sector owner and operator of the pipeline - will offer up to 100 contracts to Territory businesses, worth around $112 million. Under Jemena's Industry Participation Plan, a fund has been set up designed to build local business capacity.

Mr Gunner is leading one of the Territory’s biggest investment trade mission’s into China to promote Territory business, tourism and investment opportunities, and help strengthen international relations.

The Northern Gas Pipeline is a private sector led project of national significance and will deliver significant economic benefits and jobs to the Territory and Australia. Mr Gunner met with State Grid Corporation of China, the majority shareholder in Jemena, and undertook a tour of their facilities.

“It is important to build these relationships, emphasise Government’s support for the project and highlight the role that Territory business can play,” Mr Gunner said.

Mr Gunner also met with Chinese Government officials today, including China’s Assistant Minister for Commerce, Mr Tong Daochi.

“China and the Northern Territory have a long history of trade and cultural links with a number of prominent Chinese families contributing greatly to the development of the Territory,” Mr Gunner said.

“This was my first meeting with the Chinese Government, and I look forward to continuing to grow and develop the relationship with one of our biggest trading partners.”

The Chief Minister’s visit to China has also enabled Territory Businesses and Government Departments to gain access to Chinese state officials and industry, and promote the Territory’s investment opportunities.

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