South Australian Premier Mike Rann became the fourth State and Territory leader to pledge support for Sunrise gas from the Timor Sea field to come on shore in Darwin.

Mr Rann met with Chief Minister Clare Martin today.

Ms Martin said that Timor Sea gas from the giant Sunrise field was important for South Australians with the State facing declining deliverable reserves at its Moomba base within the next six years.

"At a time when SA is considering its long-term energy needs - and the real prospect of declining reserves - it's ironic that there are doubts surrounding whether Australian gas supplies in the Timor Sea will be piped to Darwin for domestic use," she said.

"Today, Premier Rann pledged his support for Timor Sea gas being brought on shore and piped to Moomba for use in the national grid.

"South Australia has a heavy reliance on gas for electricity generation and security of gas supply is very important.

"Timor Gas could provide a long-term solution to South Australia and the nation's energy needs and is reason enough that the supply must not be sent to overseas markets."

The Chief Minister said international companies Shell, Woodside and Phillips were currently examining whether a domestic market exists for Sunrise gas.

"With 4,400 jobs and $15 billion of gas investment hanging in the balance, it's important that this gas resource comes on shore for future energy supplies and industrial growth," she said.

Ms Martin said that the support of the Prime Minister John Howard would be important in achieving onshore gas from the giant Sunrise field in the Timor Sea. Previously the Commonwealth Government provided significant support to ensure the North West Shelf became a reality.

She said she expected the Federal Government would support gas and associated developments coming on shore through Invest Australia.

The Territory Government said the benefits of bringing gas on shore, include:

- Regional development
- Australia's economic development
- Diversity of energy supplies for domestic and industrial users keeping energy costs down
- Environmental benefits through replacement of more carbon dioxide intensive fuels.

"Shell/Woodside and Phillips are currently investigating whether a strong domestic customer base exists for Timor Sea gas."
"The Territory Government believes that suitable customers exist, and that Australia needs Timor Sea gas," she said.

"I encourage those customers to act now and take advantage of this window of opportunity by making firm commitments for Sunrise gas."

Today's meeting with the South Australian Premier follows yesterday's talks with Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, and earlier meetings with Victorian Premier Steve Bracks and New South Wales Premier Bob Carr.

"These leaders have recognised the need to secure this long term energy source to meet their States' future needs and create a boost for the Australian economy."

Ms Martin last night travelled to Sydney to meet potential gas customer – Pechiney - after meeting MIM executives in Brisbane, to gather further support for bringing gas on shore.