Darwin was another step closer to the city’s largest inner urban land release Lands and Planning Minister Dr Chris Burns said today.

“The calling of tenders totalling $10.3 million for supply of oil pipeline materials for new bulk-fuel facilities in the Port of Darwin marks another step in the relocation of the Stuart Park tank farm.

“And we’re another step closer to BP, Mobil and Shell moving their operations from the Stuart Park tank farm to the new terminal, freeing up 25 hectares of valuable land inner city.

“This year’s Territory budget included a $10.3 million program for construction of new oil delivery facilities at the Port of Darwin’s East Arm wharves.

“As the first stage of this project, tenders have now been called for the supply of pipeline, valves and specialist fittings that will be used in the new facility,” said Dr Burns.

“These materials are specialist in nature and it is appropriate to call these tenders at this stage so the construction work can proceed smoothly.

“Tenders for the construction of the bulk-fuel delivery facility are planned to be called next month.”

“Vopak’s $50 million Darwin Industry Fuel Terminal that is being constructed at the Darwin Business Park at East Arm is now well advanced. The construction of this 113 million litre facility is being undertaken by Henry Walker Eltin. It is planned to be commissioned in the second half of next year.”

“At that stage, bulk fuel deliveries will transfer to the East Arm wharves and the existing tank farms in Stuart Park will be decommissioned.

“The Government’s previous investments of $20 million for a bulk liquids berth at the East Arm wharves and $10.3 million for the receipt manifold and pipelines system have clearly provided major dividends for the Territory.”