Chief Minister, Clare Martin, has welcomed the announcement of a feasibility study for one of the largest ever construction projects in the Territory, with Alcan today detailing plans to expand its Gove operations.

The expansion will increase production of alumina from 2 million tonnes to 3.5 million tonnes and will also increase bauxite production. A new more productive process of refining the bauxite will be introduced, potentially giving the mine decades of extra life.

"This project would create 1200 new jobs over its three-year construction phase and will see excellent employment opportunities into the future," she said.

"The fact that Alcan is conducting a feasibility study into this huge expansion is a major vote of confidence in the long-term future of the Northern Territory.

"Apart from creating a large number of high skill, high wage jobs, the expanded operation would also inject around $150 million a year into the Territory economy."

Ms Martin said that the Territory Government had been working closely with Alcan including visiting the company’s headquarters in Canada during a December business trip.

"Alcan is the Territory’s largest private investor and my Government has built a strong working relationship to develop expansion opportunities for the company," she said.

The Alcan announcement comes just days after MIM made public its billion-dollar development plans for McArthur River Mine.

"While both projects are still subject to rigorous feasibility and environmental impact studies, this could prove to be one of the most significant weeks in the history of Territory business," she said.

"If successful these billion dollar proposals would see the creation of well over 2000 jobs in and around the Territory whilst injecting $300 million annually into the local economy.

"This Government has a long-term plan for the development of the Territory and the interest shown by companies to undertake large scale projects is great news for local businesses."

The company expects to begin an environmental impact assessment in the near future, which will be submitted to the Territory Government for detailed evaluation.

to the top