News that Inpex is clearing roads on Middle Arm to enable a site survey for a LNG processing plant highlights that Territory Labor’s short sighted decision to locate future heavy industrial development in Darwin Harbour will have long-term ramifications for Darwin’s lifestyle.

“The possibility of a LNG processing plant being built on Middle Arm is just the tip of the iceberg for future industrial development in Darwin harbour,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“Once Darwin harbour is open for industrial development there will be no halting its transformation into a working harbour lined with heavy industry.

“Heavy industry and fishing are a poor mix. Heavy industry and tourism are an uneconomic mix.

“I urge the Chief Minister to ask the people of Darwin whether they believe Middle Arm is a suitable site to locate heavy industry.

“I’m certain the answer would be a resounding no, I’m certain people will say leave our harbour for fishing and boating.

“The Opposition is committed to developing Darwin’s industrial base but that doesn’t have to be, and shouldn’t be, in the harbour.

“The plan for Darwin harbour should look to the next 100 years, not just the next 10.

“Astutely handled, Darwin harbour can be a tremendous asset for the future growth of the Territory.

“Darwin can become one of the world’s great harbour cities but that won’t be achieved by locating heavy industry in it.”

To arrange further comment : Greg Charter 04000 14059