The process leading to the development of the Inpex gas project in Darwin is taking further important steps today.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today tabled in Parliament the project development agreement between Inpex and the Northern Territory Government that will allow the company to plan its project with certainty.

Mr Henderson said legislation was also passed today in Parliament to provide certainty over the project’s development.

“Subject to environmental assessment and other Northern Territory regulations, the LNG Project Bill gives Inpex a guarantee the project will be able to be built at Blaydin Point if Darwin is given the go-ahead in the company’s Final Investment Decision,” Mr Henderson said.

“Project proponents must comply with the Northern Territory Regulatory framework, but an investment of this size requires some additional certainty around arrangements such as land tenure.

“Inpex is also holding forums in Darwin this week to further inform the public about some of the details around the project.”

The forums will be in Darwin today and Palmerston tomorrow.

Mr Henderson said the Inpex project was even more important for the Territory given the fallout from the global financial crisis.

“The project will deliver some 2000-3000 jobs during construction – providing opportunities for Territorians and a significant boost for our economy,” he said.

“While the Territory economy is well placed to withstand the fallout from the crisis, no-one will be immune from the effects and the $12 billion Inpex project is great insurance for the Territory.”

Mr Henderson said Inpex had indicated it remained in a strong financial position despite the global financial crisis.

“Inpex has said the crisis has not affected its intentions or plans for its Darwin LNG project.”

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