28 June 2011

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPROVES INPEX ICHTHYS PROJECT

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson said today’s approval by the Federal Government of the INPEX Ichthys project was one of the final building blocks before construction.

“Today is more than another step in bringing the INPEX Ichthys project to Darwin. Today we have hit the home straight in securing Darwin’s economic and investment future for decades,” Mr Henderson said.

“From day one my Government has been dogged in its determination to give INPEX the certainty it needs to secure this gas project for the Territory. We started as underdogs but my Government has never given up on making this massive project go from a plan to a project.”

“When I became Chief Minister in 2007 – my priority was to deliver a huge project like INPEX to secure the Territory’s economic prosperity and to start building a stream of high wage high skilled jobs for our working families.”

“It has been a long journey, but I have never given up. Milestones have included that September day in 2008, when I stood alongside the then INPEX President (now Chairman) Mr Naoki Kuroda and Federal Minister for Resources and Energy Martin Ferguson and announced Darwin had been chosen as the onshore site for the gas plant – to be worth more than $US20 billion.

“Since then, my Government has continued to advocate passionately on behalf of the Darwin community to ensure the project remains on track, not only domestically but also with a series of trips to INPEX headquarters in Japan and joint venture participant Total in France,” Mr Henderson said.

“The INPEX Ichthys project will deliver an unprecedented boost to the Territory’s economy, benefiting business, investors and workers.”

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