Construction starts on $34 billion Ichthys Project

Construction has started on the $34 billion Ichthys Project that will create more than 4,000 new jobs and secure the economic future of the Territory.

Chief Minister Henderson joined Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Minister for Resources and Energy Martin Ferguson, His Excellency Shigekazu Sato Ambassador of Japan to Australia, Mitsuyoshi Yanagisawa Senior Vice Minister of Economy Trade and Industry, Naoki Kuroda Chairman of INPEX, Michael Sangster Managing Director of Total E&P Australia in Darwin to officially turn the first sod on the project.

“Today marks the start of a period of high-skill high-wage job growth for the Territory and a new era that will bring business and training opportunities never before seen in the Territory,” Henderson said.

“The benefits from this massive LNG project are already starting to flow with more than half a billion dollars in contracts awarded to locally based companies.

“The Ichthys LNG Project means the Territory is now home to the single biggest investment by a Japanese company outside of Japan and the second biggest investment in a single project in Australia’s history.

“JKC shopfront is open for business and already taking job applications from Territorians eager to benefit from the massive injection into our economy.

“The first contract awarded by JKC went to locally based companies Macmahon and John Holland - the $340 million site development civil works contract is the biggest contract awarded in the Territory’s history to date.

“From this massive contract alone, the greatest proportion of work by Macmahon and John Holland will be undertaken through their local supply chain - this means opportunities for smaller local business and more jobs for Territorians.”

Chief Minister Henderson said already there has been a significant investment in the Territory including:

- $100 million spent in the Territory prior to FID
- Approximately $14 million of works towards roads underway, with a further $4 million planned
- A $340 million contract awarded to the Macmahon and John Holland Joint Venture for Blaydin Point site works
- $260 million contract to Laing O’Rourke for the Howard Springs Accommodation Village
- $93 million contract to Leightons towards the temporary facilities Blaydin Point

Chief Minister Henderson said Ichthys LNG Project has also commitment to spend a $87 million environmental offsets package which will include savannah fire management and environmental monitoring and research, as well as $3 million for the Charles Darwin University, North Australian Centre for Oil and Gas.

“We’ve signed an Industry Participation Plan with INPEX to ensure where possible local goods and services will be used to ensure Territory businesses achieve their share of the economic growth.
“Territory businesses have been gearing up for growth, and with the Territory Government’s support more than 900 people have participated in workshops to find out how they can capitalise on upcoming major projects.

“The project will help establish Darwin as the gas capital of northern Australia - we offer investors unique opportunities including our Marine Supply Base, proximity to Asia, deep sea port, our skilled and flexible workforce and capital city facilities.”

JKC Joint Venture is the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor for the Ichthys Project and has in total built more than 70% of the world’s onshore LNG facilities.

The JKC Shopfront is located on the Ground Floor of NT House, 22 Mitchell St, Darwin City. For more information or to view the jobs currently on offer, visit www.ichthysjobs.com

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