MILLS TRAVELS TO EUROPE TO CONTINUE GAS TO GOVE NEGOTIATIONS

February 3rd, 2013

Chief Minister, Terry Mills, will today depart to Canberra, Singapore and Europe for high-level meetings with the objective of keeping the Gove refinery operating, as well as securing the Northern Territory’s future energy requirements.

Mr Mills will conduct meetings with major international gas companies Rio Tinto, Eni and GDF Suez in a bid to reach an agreement to secure gas for the Pacific Aluminium refinery in Nhulunbuy.

“These negotiations have reached a critical stage. I want to assure the people of Nhulunbuy, and the Northern Territory, that my Government is doing all it can to keep the Gove refinery open,” Mr Mills said.

“Following meetings in Perth this week, I am more determined than ever to explore every option, knocking on every door to create a positive outcome for the Nhulunbuy community.

“This Government is doing everything in its power to obtain an additional gas supply for the Territory, however, all parties must meet us at the negotiation table.

The Northern Territory Government, along with Santos, have continually offered up to 150PJ of gas. Rio Tinto should be exploring all avenues possible to secure further gas for their refinery, without solely relying on the Territory’s already-contracted gas supply.

“Rio Tinto must step up to its responsibility to look after the residents of Gove and the greater Nhulunbuy community.

“It has become increasingly apparent in my recent negotiations in Perth, there is a need for a national energy policy in Australia. I will be meeting with Federal Coalition Leader, Tony Abbott, along with federal government ministers in Canberra regarding this important framework.

“This is an issue of national significance that should be recognised by all states and territories.

“I endeavour with vigour to gain the support of my federal and state colleagues in raising and prioritising this agenda. A national energy policy will assist in avoiding the serious circumstances we currently face with Rio Tinto and securing additional gas supplies.”

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