Chief Minister, Terry Mills, today held meetings in Canberra with members of the Federal parliament including Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, and Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson, to discuss the need for a national energy policy and within this context the supply of gas to Gove.

Mr Mills said the talks were positive with both Labor and the Coalition recognising the challenge to address the long-term issue of domestic gas supply in Australia.

“A national energy policy would include a framework for infrastructure to link the Northern Territory’s gas supply with other states, creating a strengthened domestic market and promoting downstream use of our resource.

“A national pipeline would require multilateral cooperation from states, territories, the Commonwealth and energy companies.

“Long-term planning will strengthen and secure the future of the domestic gas market and create greater certainty for Territorians.”

Mr Mills was further encouraged following talks with Federal Coalition members including Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources, Ian Macfarlane, Northern Territory senators Nigel Scullion and Natasha Griggs, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage, Greg Hunt, and Cheryl Cartwright CEO of the Australian Pipeline Association.

“Following today’s meetings, I feel encouraged to carry this agenda and work with the Commonwealth and through COAG to progress this idea,” Mr Mills said.

“The need for a national energy policy is linked to the challenge to both secure an an aggregated gas supply for Pacific Aluminium’s refinery in Gove and achieve long term energy security for the Territory,” Mr Mills said.

Mr Mills will depart Australia for Singapore tomorrow, where he will meet with executives from Eni for further negotiations around the existing contract between Eni and PWC

“At the end of this I want to see both the refinery going and the Northern Territory in a stronger position,” Mr Mills said.

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