THE FIGHT CONTINUES TO GET GAS TO GOVE

February 1st, 2013

Chief Minister Terry Mills will fly to Europe in an urgent bid to secure gas for Gove and save the aluminium refinery operations.

Mr Mills returns today from preparatory negotiations in Perth with major international gas companies where he continues to work to achieve an agreement to supply Pacific Aluminium with gas for its refinery at Gove, without jeopardising the Power and Water Corporation’s Territory gas supplies.

The talks with Eni, GDF Suez, and Santos reinforced the Northern Territory Government’s endeavour to secure the future not only of the Gove refinery and the East Arnhem region, but achieve improved energy security for the Territory.

“I will continue to work around the clock, knock on every door, and turn over every stone to reach a deal and create certainty for the Nhulunbuy community and the Territory”, Mr Mills said.

“This Government is doing all it can to secure the Northern Territory’s electricity supply and find the additional gas needed to reach an agreement.

“An aggregated gas supply must be found for the Northern Territory and I remain determined to see this occur. But I cannot and will not risk taking actions that result in upward pressure on Territory power prices.

“Yesterday’s discussions have revealed an emerging issue. This problem is not unique to the Northern Territory, but exists in other states and nationally, where the international market demands compete against domestic market requirement.

“A response to this must form the basis of our national energy policy and I intend to have this matter remain on the COAG agenda.

“This is not just a Territory issue but an issue of national significance and I will be flying to Canberra on Monday before departing for Europe.”

Mr Mills returns to Darwin today.

Media Contact:
Danielle Lede 0404 515 414

www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801