MILLS FLIES TO PERTH FOR GAS TALKS

January 30th, 2013

Chief Minister Terry Mills has today travelled to Perth, as talks continue on negotiations to get gas to Gove.

Mr Mills said his Government was doing everything in its power to assist Rio Tinto and its subsidiary, Pacific Aluminium, to keep the Gove refinery open.

“Today I travel to Perth to hold talks with major international gas companies which could see an aggregated gas supply found for the Northern Territory,” Mr Mills said.

“Last week, my Government advised Rio Tinto that we are willing to release their request of 300PJ of gas over 10 years, provided a replacement gas supply is made available so the future Northern Territory electricity supply is not jeopardised or put at risk.

“The NT Government has a strategy to bring other gas resources into the domestic gas market, which would provide sufficient gas to meet both the Northern Territory’s electricity demand and Rio Tinto’s requirements to ensure the Gove refinery remains operating.

“Sufficient proven gas reserves exist in the Tern and Petrel fields near the Blacktip field and Eni Australia has scheduled a drilling program for the Penguin Deep prospect, just 40 kilometres from the Blacktip field.

“In Perth, I will meet immediately with GDF Suez and Santos, the owners of the Petrel and Tern gas fields, to discuss obtaining an additional gas supply for the Northern Territory.

“I’m well aware of today’s rally in Gove, and an open letter from me to all residents of Nhulunbuy was read out at that rally.

“The best way my Government can continue supporting the residents of Nhulunbuy is by leaving no stone unturned in finding an aggregated gas supply at a reasonable price to meet Rio Tinto’s long-term needs and provide for the continued operation of the Gove alumina refinery.”

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