MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

DOUBLE DELIGHT AS TWO CRUISE SHIPS DOCK IN DARWIN

March 4th, 2013

Darwin Port’s new berthing facilities will be put to the test today when not one but two luxury cruise liners arrive at the same time.

The Queen Victoria, which carries 2000 passengers and 900 crew, will dock at Fort Hill Wharf at the same time the Europa, which carries 340 passengers and 280 crew, docks at Stokes Hill Wharf.

Minister for Transport, Adam Giles, said the Port was now capable of accommodating two cruise ships simultaneously following a $21m infrastructure upgrade to Stokes Hill Wharf.

“Having these two ships in port at the same time will be a truly magnificent sight,” Mr Giles said.

“Following the completion of significant engineering upgrades, cruise vessels are now able to utilise Stokes Hill Wharf, with new berthing facilities in place including 100 metres of additional fender piles.

“Stokes Hill Wharf used to be the site of the Darwin Cruise Ship Terminal until the terminal at Fort Hill Wharf opened in 2008.

“The main terminal will still be based at Fort Hill Wharf however Stokes Hill Wharf is now able to accommodate ships up to 200 metres, with a draft up to 6.2 metres as well.

“With the close proximity to Darwin’s CBD and the Darwin Waterfront Precinct accessible through the connected walkway from Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin is in a prime position to grow this important sector.”

Tourism NT works closely with the Darwin Port Corporation to encourage more cruise lines to visit Darwin more frequently and the additional capacity of the Stokes Hill Wharf cruise ship facility will enable this to happen.

Passengers arriving at Stokes Hill Wharf will have access to a passenger terminal facility, coach rank, shuttle bus pick-up and drop-off as well as the local restaurants, and cafes.

Eleven cruise ships are set to arrive in Darwin before the end of the 2012-13 cruise season.

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