Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

National conversation on energy security and Indigenous economic reform

9 October 2014

Chief Minister Adam Giles is on his way to the Council of Australian Governments Meeting in Canberra where a new gas pipeline and Indigenous economic reform are at the top of his agenda.

“There is mounting investor interest in a pipeline from Alice Springs to Moomba, linking the Territory’s vast stranded gas reserves with the national energy grid,” Mr Giles said.

“The East Coast of Australia is facing a looming gas crisis and a Territory pipeline is the answer but we need national support to make happen.

“We have the gas and they have the demand but there is currently no economically viable way to get the gas from Northern Australia to the eastern market.

“A pipeline is a win-win that would connect oil and gas companies with potential buyers in the eastern states, while also creating economic opportunities for the Northern Territory.

“The Territory is working with the Federal Government and relevant states to secure private investment in the pipeline. There is already strong interest from a number of key industry players nationally and internationally.

“The pipeline is truly a project of national significance and I look forward to discussing it further with my counterparts at COAG.”

The Chief Minister will also take the opportunity to push for reforms to unlock economic opportunities remote areas across the Territory.

“I think it’s time for the Federal Government to look at the poverty and misery endured by residents of our very remote communities and realise that it’s time for change,” Mr Giles said.

“We have to stop talking about land rights and start talking about the economic rights of our traditional owners. We have to stop talking about social rights and start talking about the need to create jobs so that kids have a reason to go to school.

“If we don’t start developing economies, there will be no hope.
“It is nearly impossible for indigenous communities to take control of their own economic destiny until Canberra changes its philosophical position of managing social decay to supporting the Giles Government in driving economic growth and change. No job equals no hope.”

Mr Giles will also join the Prime Minister and the Premiers of Queensland and Western Australia for a Northern Australia Strategic Partnership Meeting immediately after COAG.

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