Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Gas pipeline a step closer**

19 December 2014

The Giles Government has shortlisted 11 companies to proceed to the next stage of the bid process for a new pipeline linking the Northern Territory to the East Coast gas grid.

“The North East Gas Interconnector is an important nation-building project with the potential to create jobs and industry in the Territory, as well as relieve the East Coast gas crisis,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“A panel has met to assess the proposals and was highly impressed with the quality of the applications.

“The initial Expression of Interest process has proven the viability of this project, with some of the world’s largest pipeliners and financiers putting their names forward to get involved.

“At this stage the favoured route isn’t clear with different proponents expressing different preferences, as we expected all along.”

The 11 companies are being contacted today to invite them to proceed to the formal request for initial proposal stage. In alphabetical order, the parties are:

- APA Group
- Berkshire Hathaway Energy
- DDG Operations (DUET)
- Enbridge International
- GDF Suez
- Macquarie Capital
- Marubeni Corporation
- Merlin Energy
- OSD Midstream
Further assessment is continuing with one final company which may expand this group to 12.

“I look forward to seeing the more detailed proposals from the shortlisted companies which will be assessed by an expert evaluation panel in March. We expect they will invite a small group to proceed to the binding bid phase of the project,” Mr Giles said.

“We know that this project is time critical so we are hoping the bid process will be finalised in late September 2015, with contractual and financial close shortly thereafter.

For further information on the North East Gas Interconnector, please visit: www.nt.gov.au/gaspipeline

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801