New Darwin ship lift facility granted major project status

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A ship lift facility that could underpin the creation of thousands of jobs and establish Darwin as a prime location for marine maintenance has been awarded major project status by the Northern Territory Government.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the Northern Territory Government was prepared to invest up to $100 million from the proceeds of the Darwin Port lease to develop a common multi-user ship lift facility.

“The creation of a new major industry dedicated to marine services has the potential to drive the development of more than 150 hectares of prime industrial land at East Arm to support the defence, oil and gas, coastal barging and logistics sectors,” he said.

“One at full capacity, it’s estimated the Marine Industry Park will support up to 4500 full time jobs and inject around $3.5 billion into the Territory economy.

“The Northern Territory Government has offered to invest up to $100 million into a common user ship lift as a drawcard piece of infrastructure if the Federal Government commit to servicing its naval and border protection fleet in Darwin.”

Mr Giles said a ship lift would have the capacity to raise large sea vessels from water on to dry land for repairs and maintenance works.

“The facility will be designed to accommodate boats more than 90 metres in length, including the new fleet of patrol vessels currently being procured by the Defence Force,” he said.

“A ship lift facility in Darwin would allow Defence ships to be serviced here instead of being transported to Perth or Cairns for repairs and maintenance works.”

Mr Giles said the Office of Major Projects, Infrastructure and Investment within the Department of Chief Minister would facilitate the project and establish an open market process to determine the market appetite and best location of the facility.

“It is this sort of infrastructure that will drive local industry, keep work in the hands of Territorians and establish Darwin as the prime location for marine maintenance and servicing facilities in Northern Australia,” he said.
“It’s all part of the Country Liberals’ plan to create opportunities to deliver more jobs, better services and improve our unique way of life here in the Territory.”

Media Contact: Scott Whitby 0438 531 583