Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

NT and Qld sign agreement to progress Mount Isa to Tennant Creek railway

11 December 2015

The Northern Territory and Queensland Governments have today agreed to a joint approach to progress a potential new rail project linking Tennant Creek to Mount Isa.

Chief Minister Adam Giles and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to foster a closer working relationship between the two governments on major cross-border infrastructure projects.

The MOU acknowledges that cross-border coordination and cooperation is critical to developing nationally significant infrastructure and to grow Northern Australia.

The MOU also notes that the North East Gas Interconnector is an example of how coordinated cross border infrastructure can benefit both the regional areas of Queensland and the Northern Territory.

The Chief Minister and the Queensland Premier have agreed to develop a joint investment framework that considers the priorities of each Government to determine how best to invest in the Townsville to Darwin rail corridor.

“The 600 kilometre railway between Mount Isa and Tennant Creek could provide enormous economic opportunities, potentially opening up new mining projects and boosting development in our regional and remote areas,” Mr Giles said.

“This piece of enabling infrastructure would join to, and benefit from the existing railways between Adelaide and Darwin and from Mount Isa to Townsville, providing an efficient route to market for potential new projects in the region and a new logistics option for those who currently use both these lines.”

Mr Giles said inadequate economic infrastructure was a significant barrier to the development of Northern Australia so it was vital a project like this was given every consideration.

“That’s why my Government has released an Economic Development Strategy setting out how we can deliver a prosperous economic future for the Northern Territory,” he said.

“It is why my Government has initiated key projects such as the gas pipeline connecting the Northern Territory to the eastern gas markets, the lease of the Port of Darwin, a high end hotel development and the Marine Industry Park.
“The Country Liberals’ Government is determined to unlock the full potential of the Northern Territory and create opportunities to deliver more jobs, better services and improve our unique way of life.”

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NT QLD MOU