Registrations now open for Darwin ship lift project

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Expressions of interest are being sought to develop a ship lift facility that could underpin the creation of thousands of jobs and establish Darwin as a prime location for marine maintenance.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the Northern Territory Government was holding briefing sessions in Canberra on 10 February and Darwin on 12 February and was calling for expressions of interest from private sector proponents to be lodged by 29 February.

“This ship lift project will catalyse the creation of a new major industry dedicated to marine services which has the potential to drive the development of prime industrial land at East Arm to support the defence, oil and gas, coastal barging and logistics sectors,” he said.

“At full capacity, our marine industries are projected to support up to 4500 full time jobs and inject around $3.5 billion into the Territory economy.

“The Northern Territory Government is prepared to invest up to $100 million as a contribution to the project costs and has commenced consultation with Defence, Border Force and industry to secure local marine maintenance commitments that would underpin the ship lift.

“The Government intends to enter into project agreements with and announce a successful preferred proponent for the project in July.”

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 Singapore, Perth or Cairns for repairs and maintenance works.

“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.
“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.”

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