Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Northern Territory projects recognised in Australian Infrastructure Plan

17 February 2016

Four Northern Territory projects have been recognised as nationally significant projects in the Australian Infrastructure Plan released by the Federal Government today.

The Territory projects recognised in the Australian Infrastructure Plan include:

- Upgrading the Tanami Road, which runs from Alice Springs in the Northern Territory to Halls Creek in Western Australia;
- The North East Gas Interconnector connecting Territory gas supplies to eastern markets;
- Darwin region water supply infrastructure upgrades; and
- Developing enabling infrastructure and essential services in remote Territory communities as part of a regional economy.

Chief Minister Adam Giles welcomed the release of the Australian Infrastructure Plan and said he would continue to push for the development of Northern Australia to be a high priority on the national agenda.

“The Northern Territory is at a different stage of economic development to the rest of the country, and we need more investment in infrastructure to unlock our full potential and create more jobs and opportunities,” he said.

“In our submission to Infrastructure Australia, the Northern Territory Government emphasised the importance of taking a broader, regional approach towards assessing infrastructure needs in remote communities rather than just focussing on one-off projects.

“I’m pleased that message has been heard with the plan highlighting the need for better roads and essential services in communities like Wadeye, the Tiwi Island and Jabiru to drive social and economic growth.”

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government was keen to see the $5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility move forward to generate more private sector investment in infrastructure.
“We also await more details of the $600 million roads package identified in the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia as improving roads in the Territory will drive new sources of economic activity in key industries like mining, agriculture and tourism,” he said.

“We want to open up the Northern Territory. We want to connect people, communities and businesses to grow jobs for the future, and it’s important policymakers in Canberra understand the need to make a long term commitment to develop the north.”

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government would also continue to lobby for other strategically significant infrastructure projects to be included on the evolving Infrastructure Priority List such as:

- The ship lift project, which has the potential to stimulate the creation of up to 4500 jobs and inject $3.5 billion into the Territory economy over the next 25 years; and

- Project Sea Dragon, the largest aquaculture project in Australia – a project which will create 1500 direct regional jobs and $1.5 billion in export earnings through the sale of 100,000 tonnes of black tiger prawns to the Asian market.

Media Contact: Scott Whitby 0438 531 583