MEDIA RELEASE

WORKING TO DELIVER GAS TO GOVE

September 11th, 2012

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to working with Pacific Aluminium and the Nhulunbuy community to find an alternative energy source which will allow the Gove operation to continue,” says Chief Minister Terry Mills.

“There is a clear role for Government in assisting Pacific Aluminium achieve its objective of securing a reliable and sustainable gas supply to power the Gove refinery.

“Converting the Gove refinery to gas will significantly improve Pacific Aluminium’s economic and environmental position and underpin the long term operating life of the refinery.

“Some work in this area has already been done, and the Country Liberals Government understands the importance of Pacific Aluminium to the East Arnhem, Northern Territory and national economies.

“The Gove refinery contributes about $500 million to the Territory’s Gross Regional Product every year of which about $375 million goes into local service providers and suppliers.

“But in addition to its impact on the general economy, the Gove facility is about people and any downgrading of existing operations could potentially devastate towns and communities in the East Arnhem region.

“I have directed that the pipeline strategic action group report regularly to the Chief Minister and have included in the body a senior representative from my office. Further changes to its make-up will be announced in the near future.

“The pipeline working party will:

- Identify gas sources that could be used to power Pacific Aluminium’s Gove operation
- Develop mechanisms for using current PowerWater Corporation gas reserves
- Identify the investment required by Territory and Commonwealth government to support the pipeline construction
- Focus on the long term sustainability of Nhulunbuy and the Entire East Arnhem region

“Key stakeholders the working party will consult with include Pacific Aluminium, PowerWater Corporation, the Commonwealth Government, Northern Land Council and East Arnhem Shire.

“The strategic action group will meet for the first time on Friday.”

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