A significant agreement between the Central Land Council, traditional owners and a petroleum company has been secured in Central Australia.

Mines and Energy Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said the CLC and Magellan Petroleum Australia Limited have today signed the Palm Valley 2 agreement, which allows a 21 year extension for operator Magellan Petroleum Australia to continue extracting of gas from the Palm Valley Field.

“This is yet another example of the positive partnerships that are forming between the resource industry and traditional owners in the Territory, and all parties must be congratulated,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The Palm Valley Field - located around 120 km west of Alice Springs, near the Finke Gorge National Park - has supplied gas for power generation to the Northern Territory for over 30 years.

“Last November, the petroleum production lease for Palm Valley was renewed for a further 21 years, however at that time an agreement with the CLC on behalf of the traditional owners had not been concluded.”

Mr Vatskalis said the agreement between the CLC and Magellan Petroleum Australia Limited covers environmental and cultural heritage issues, and employment and training for local indigenous people.

“It is very encouraging that local people are being given opportunities in the resource industry,” he said.

“Currently, Palm Valley employs five people in the field, including a local Indigenous person, with a further three Indigenous employees involved in the drilling activities.”

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