Chief Minister Clare Martin has welcomed last week’s public launch of the Institute for NT Economic Development (INTED).

An initiative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Territory Construction Association, with help from other business organisations, INTED has been set up to commission independent research into ways to achieve, facilitate or promote economic growth in the Territory.

Speaking at INTED’s first public function last week – billed as a Gas Supporters luncheon – Ms Martin paid tribute to the leading lights of INTED, Dave Malone and Carole Frost.

"Both of these individuals have done a great deal to help the Government promote the Territory’s case for bringing Timor Sea gas onshore in the national interest," Ms Martin said.

"They have lobbied their national business groups, they have seen Federal ministers, and they have kept up a relentless but appropriate campaign, and it has been of great assistance to our efforts to get gas onshore."

Ms Martin said INTED had also commissioned a major work of research from Professor Peter Brain into the need for Timor Sea gas to fuel Australian industrial expansion.

"If we are to bring gas onshore, it is crucial that we present a united front. The local business community has provided invaluable professional support in pushing the Territory case," Ms Martin said.

"Establishing INTED is further proof of the level of commitment the business community has to promoting and achieving economic growth in the Territory."