Shipping company recognised for its commitment to the Northern Territory

The Minister for Ports, Kon Vatskalis, today presented Swire Shipping Agencies – agents for the owners and operators of the New Guinea Pacific Line and Crocodile Line Services – with a plaque, commemorating four years of continuous service to the Territory.

Swires vessels have been calling into Darwin from January 1999, and in recognition of the growing importance of Darwin, the company recently opened an office in the newly formed Land Development Corporation at East Arm.

"The Swire Group has made Darwin one of its primary ports of call, offering local importers and exporters links to and from Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South Africa and North America," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The current vessel "Changsha" is the fourth vessel to hold this name, with the first visiting Darwin as part of the China Navigation Company in the late 1890’s, carrying not only passengers, but cargo of tea, rice and refrigerated goods.

"That commitment has continued to present day, with vessels in the fleet now also able to carry specialised equipment such as flatracks, bolsters and tanktainers."

Swire Shipping Agency Manager, Amanda Holtham, said the company looked forward to continued operations in the Territory.

"We’re proud to be associated with and part of the exciting future that we believe Darwin and the people of the Northern Territory have in front of them," said Ms Holtham.

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