The Timor Sea Treaty’s passage through the Federal Senate today has been described by the Chief Minister as a "major step forward for Bayu-Undan" and "the most definite sign yet" that gas will come onshore to Darwin.

"This is an important day in the history of Northern Territory business and I congratulate the Federal and East Timorese Government’s for today’s result," she said.

"Now that the Treaty has successfully passed through both houses of Parliament it has cleared the way for the joint venturers to make their final investment decisions.

"They needed the Treaty to be ratified before moving ahead with their planned $3 billion investment in an LNG plant and pipeline at Wickham Point."

Ms Martin said that the board of the joint venture, of the Bayu Undan field is expected to meet later this month.

"Once the board gives its final approval to the investment, work should commence almost immediately on the LNG plant creating 1000 jobs during the 3-year construction phase.

"Today is a major step in seeing these new jobs created, as well as millions of dollars investment in our economy."

Ms Martin said that the Territory Government had demonstrated its commitment to the Bayu-Undan project spending almost $20 million dollars on gas related infrastructure for Wickham Point, with road works already well underway.

"Apart from that substantial funding, this Government has worked extremely closely with the Federal and East Timorese Governments - as well as the major companies – to get to this stage.

"It is a credit to everyone involved and we especially thank Team NT for all its hard work."

The Chief Minister said this had been a confidence-boosting month for Territory business with MIM and Alcan also announcing plans for billion dollar mining expansions and more than 2000 new jobs.