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Government seeks meeting with international companies in ongoing campaign for Timor Sea gas

Addressing today’s Team NT meeting, Chief Minister, Clare Martin, announced that the Territory Government is in the process of organising overseas meetings with key potential international Timor Sea gas customers.

Ms Martin said she planned to meet high level executives from the Canadian company, Alcan, France’s Pechiney and the US-based Phillips Petroleum, among others.

"These massive companies are extremely important to the Territory’s future, particularly for industrial development bringing jobs," she said.

"Alcan and Pechiney are potential Timor Sea gas customers and, as such, hold the key to future onshore activity and with it huge economic prosperity for the Territory and Australia. Phillips Petroleum is bringing gas onshore to the LNG plant in Darwin, and is a key player in the giant Sunrise gasfield. Phillips investment decisions will play an important part in the Territory’s development.

"With the Timor Sea treaty on the verge of being completed, which will assure the Bayu-Undan gasfield and its pipeline to Darwin, it is now time for face-to-face discussions on the future of Sunrise and several other smaller fields in the Timor Sea.

"The ultimate aim is to bring all the Timor Sea gas onshore to Darwin."

Ms Martin discussed the latest developments surrounding the Bayu-Undan, Sunrise, Blacktip and Petrel/Tern gasfields during today’s Team NT meeting with key business leaders.

"Bayu-Undan is progressing well - just yesterday we announced that $20 million worth of construction had begun at Wickham Point in preparation for Phillips’ LNG plant," she said.

Ms Martin said that she hoped to meet with relevant international companies in the near future.

"Onshore Timor Sea gas provides a multibillion dollar opportunity for the Territory however, it’s also one of a number of fields around the world so we must meet with businesses to continually sell the benefits of the Territory as a base for their operations."

Ms Martin said that she had received the full endorsement of Team NT to arrange the international gas meetings.