Another step towards bringing gas onshore in the Territory has been taken with the granting of final licences to allow the completion of the Bayu-Undan to Wickham Point Gas Pipeline.

The Bayu-Undan Gas Field is located about 500 kilometres north west of Darwin, and covers an area of 160 square kilometres.

Mines and Energy Minister, Kon Vatskalis, has announced that the ConocoPhillips Oil Company has been granted the licences for the final portion of the pipeline under the NT Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act and the Energy Pipelines Act.

“This is a long term, high investment project that will keep the Territory moving ahead,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Work on the Wickham Point portion of the project is now underway, and the first liquefied natural gas has been produced on the platform. The granting of these licences will allow the pipeline to proceed, with gas expected at Wickham Point in 2006.”

The pipeline will run from the Bayu-Undan central production platform of the Joint Petroleum Development Area (previously called the Zone of Cooperation) to a liquefied natural gas facility at Wickham Point in Darwin.