$1 BILLION WORTH OF PROJECTS TAKE STEP FORWARD

The proposed $500 million Trans-Territory Pipeline (TTP) project and the proposed $500 million Blacktip Gas Project took an important step forward today with Chief Minister, Clare Martin, introducing the TTP and Blacktip Gas Projects (Special Provisions) Bill into Alice Springs sittings.

“This is an exciting step forward for $1 billion worth of development in the Territory,” she said.

“We’re introducing this legislation to help drive economic growth and keep the Territory moving ahead.”

The TTP project will involve the construction of a 940km underground pipeline from the proposed Blacktip Gas Project (including an on-shore Gas Plant at Wadeye) to the Alcan Alumina Refinery in Gove.

Negotiations, board approvals and final agreement are expected to be completed in the first half of 2005 for the TTP and Blacktip projects, allowing work to begin before the end of the year.

A $2 billion expansion of the Alcan Refinery in Gove - the biggest project in Territory history - is already underway and is expected to be completed in 2007.

Ms Martin said Blacktip and TTP will produce and deliver natural gas for generation of electricity at the Alcan refinery and for communities in the Gove region, replacing fuel oil which is the current energy source.

“Combined, the Alcan, Blacktip and TTP projects are worth $3 billion dollars and will deliver significant benefits to local business,” she said.

The purpose of the legislation is to provide certainty on a number of key matters, including:

- Rights to cross roadways and waterways. (ie. rivers)
- Creating a provision to transfer rights to any subsequent owners of the pipeline.
- Scheduling the proposed Wadeye gas plant under the Waste Management & Pollution Control Act

Due to the complex nature of these projects a package of documents have been developed to cover the relationship between Government and the project proponents. The package will include:

- Legislation – this is the only Act contemplated.
- A Project Agreement to cover the contractual arrangements, and
- Deeds and Protocols covering the day to day activities.

The negotiation of these arrangements has been managed by a Taskforce established by the Territory Government in February, 2003.

Contact: Craig Rowston 0401 119 777