Chief Minister Clare Martin has offered to help the Sunrise gas developers to find customers for the giant Sunrise gasfield in the Timor Sea.

Ms Martin was responding to the Woodside media release on its review of customers for the Sunrise field which indicated it had so far found no viable proposal for the sale of the gas.

"My government is willing to assist the Sunrise developers to find customers to get gas onshore in the national interest. We believe there are customers based in Australia, and that a solution would include some of the gas piped to an onshore LNG plant in Darwin.

"We are amazed that Woodside has never taken a proposal to the Federal Government about Sunrise gas, and we are further mystified why Woodside has not fully examined bringing some of the gas to an onshore LNG plant.

"I am planning to visit potential international customers, Pechiney and Alcan, in the near future in order to determine their level of interest in the Sunrise gas to fuel industrial expansion in the Territory, and create jobs for Territorians.

"I am also planning to visit the headquarters of Phillips Petroleum, one of the Sunrise joint venturers. Phillips has already made a major commitment to the Territory in its Darwin LNG plant, and we want to talk about future projects.

"We are glad that the Sunrise review did acknowledge the ‘level of demand and interest within the domestic gas market’. It is just disappointing that our feedback from domestic gas customers indicated that the reviewers did not pursue the customers with the level of enthusiasm you would have expected from a genuine marketing effort," Ms Martin said.

"Nevertheless we believe the real search for customers for Sunrise has just begun, and my Government will be in the vanguard of that effort.

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