JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

NORTHERN TERRITORY CHIEF MINISTER
DENIS BURKE
&
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PREMIER
JOHN OLSEN

Railways

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ADELAIDE TO DARWIN RAILWAY: CONSORTIUM NAMED

Northern Territory Chief Minister and South Australian Premier John Olsen announced today the Asia Pacific Consortium has been chosen to build, own and operate the Adelaide to Darwin railway.

The consortium won the recommendation from the AustralAsia Railway Corporation. It was endorsed last week by the Northern Territory Government and today by the South Australian Cabinet.

The AustralAsia Railway Corporation Chairman, Mr Rick Allert, met with the Asia Pacific Consortium at the weekend and agreed the terms and conditions for remaining negotiations to settle final details.

This negotiation phase is expected to be completed by September or October. All contractual arrangements would then be completed by November, with a three to four year construction process to start early next year.

Mr Burke and Mr Olsen said any additional financial contribution from the Territory, South Australian and Federal governments would be part of the negotiation process with Asia Pacific.

"It's fair to say some additional public contribution will be required," they said. "The bottom line will not be known until September or October, and we expect it will not be a figure that is unmanageable."

Chief Minister Burke, Premier Olsen and Prime Minister John Howard entered into discussions last week about the railway project, including the level of extra contributions and how they might be addressed. But there can be no final result on this until the negotiations with Asia Pacific are concluded.

Asia Pacific was chosen from three consortia short-listed from more than 30 corporations who expressed interest in the railway project.
THE ASIA PACIFIC TRANSPORT CONSORTIUM

Brown and Root Engineering and Construction Pty Ltd, incorporating Kinhill (Parkside SA) — Engineering and Construction

Brown and Root is fully owned and guaranteed by Halliburton Company in Dallas Texas, the world’s largest oilfield services company and one of the world’s leading providers of engineering and construction services and energy management. Brown and Root has a massive presence in the infrastructure and resources sector.

Genesee and Wyoming Australia Pty Ltd (Kilburn SA) — Rail Operator

Genesee and Wyoming is a major regional United States rail operator with extensive experience in both the USA and Australia in operating and maintaining railways, including the Australian Southern Railroad.

Barclay Mowlem Construction Ltd (Pymble NSW) — Rail Maintenance and Construction

Barclay Mowlem is a major player in the engineering and construction industry in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. It is a recognised leader in delivering railways and rail manufacturing projects.

John Holland Group Pty Ltd (Abbottsford VIC) — Rail Maintenance and Construction

Fully owned by Heytesbury Pty Ltd, the John Holland Group is a leading Australian civil engineering and construction company, with substantial international operations and expertise in rail infrastructure and maintenance.

Macmahon Holdings Pty Ltd (Wavville SA) — Civil Construction

Macmahon holdings is also a leader in Australia’s civil engineering and construction industry with significant experience in civil engineering and bulk earthworks in Australia’s remote areas.

MPG Logistics (South Melbourne VIC) — Logistics Manager

MPG Logistics is an amalgamation of PGA Logistics and the logistics operations arm of Mayne Nickless, bringing together worldwide expertise in transport logistics, electronic tracking and materials handling, multi-modal freight forwarding services regional distribution, warehousing and logistics planning. MPG Logistics is Australia’s largest provider of outsourced logistics.

Hutchison Port Holdings (Hong Kong) — Key Participant

Hutchison is an international port operator with significant South East Asian and international experience and extensive shipping interests in Asia. It has formed an exclusive association with Asia Pacific and has made a commitment to align its international port business with the Consortium’s proposals for the development of the Port of Darwin.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT: GARY SHIPWAY 89997859

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