March 5, 2009

High Level Gas Talks

Chief Minister Paul Henderson has met with representatives of one of the world's biggest energy investors to talk about potential projects in the NT.

The high level talks with the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) at Parliament House follow an invitation from the Chief Minister when he visited Japan earlier this year.

“This is about jobs, jobs and more jobs – I will continue to do everything I can to attract more investment in the Territory,” Mr Henderson said.

“I met with the JOGMEC representatives in Japan earlier this year and I was keen for them to see for themselves the potential for projects in the Territory.

“The delegation has now come to the Territory to consider potential locations for future investment opportunities.

“JOGMEC’s visit is a great vote of confidence in the Territory.

“Despite the economic downturn, Japan realises there is scope in the Territory for increased investment and greater trade opportunities.”

JOGMEC is particularly interested in potential gas-to-liquids projects (GTL) - the conversion of natural gas to liquid fuels such as gasoline, diesel, jet kerosene and LPG.

The visit coincides with the release of SENSIS figures which show Territory businesses are the most confident in Australia.

The report also shows the Territory Government also has more support from business than any other jurisdiction.

This support from business follows intensive efforts from the Chief Minister to bolster the Territory economy. This has included:

- The securing of Darwin as the preferred site for Inpex
- A trade mission to Japan, China and the United States
- The announcement of a procurement overhaul
- Highly successful business summits
• The securing of $500 million for the Territory in the Federal Government’s Stimulus Package
• Launch of the Buy Territory campaign

*Media contact: Andrea Adlam 0401 119467*