Growing the Territory

The Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson has outlined the Government’s commitment to continue to grow the Territory at the inaugural NT Resources Week conference in Darwin.

NT Resources Week is a new concept that brings together the petroleum and mining sectors and incorporates two of northern Australia’s leading resource industry events – the South East Asia Australia Offshore Conference (SEAAOC) and Mining the Territory.

“The future of the Northern Territory is one of growth, expansion and optimism,” Mr Henderson said.

“Growing the Territory and creating jobs is a key priority of my Government. The gas and mining industries are major employers and will help drive future job creation.

“The Territory has a buoyant, confident economy, an estimated economic growth of 4.9% in 2008-09, an unemployment level that remains low and a skills base that is high.

“The growing stature of the Northern Territory’s petroleum and mining industries, our can-do attitude and proximity to Asia make us a very attractive investment prospect.

“The Northern Territory has fared better than most with the fallout of the global financial crisis. In fact, I am happy to report that two projects that were casualties of the downturn are about to recommence mining and hiring.

“Crocodile Gold Australia is re-opening gold operations in the Pine Creek area, creating 200 direct jobs, and Sterling Resource is re-commencing mineral sands mining on the Tiwi Islands.

“We have a proven track record of strong partnerships: Inpex’s $20 billion Ichthys Project is coming onshore and will create more than 2000 jobs during construction, ConocoPhillips is considering a second LNG train in Darwin and...
Rio Tinto is spending $3 billion to expand its Alcan mine and refinery – to name just a few projects.

“Darwin is also emerging as a supply and service base to both the mining and petroleum sectors, with local companies providing invaluable support to resource developments across the region.

“The offshore supply and service industry alone is estimated to be worth $150 million per year to the Territory with strong prospects for expansion.

“Last month I announced plans to set up a marine supply base at the Darwin Port – coinciding with the announcement by Santos and GDF SUEZ that they will develop an offshore operation to develop gas fields west of Darwin.

“The investment of gas and mining companies in the Territory will mean hundreds of new skilled jobs and improved prospects for Territorians. As a former marine fitter, I know the value of a hard day’s work and what it can do for you.

“NT Resources Week is a key opportunity for the Territory. Many international delegates are attending, including the Timor-Leste Secretary of State for Resources, His Excellency Mr Alfredo Pires.

“I welcome all delegates and encourage them to explore the many benefits the Northern Territory business environment has to offer.”

A combined exhibition area is one of the key features of NT Resources Week, allowing organisations from across the petroleum, mining and supply and service sectors to showcase products and services and to network across a larger, more diverse audience.

About 600 participants are expected to take part in NT Resources Week, which is being held at the Darwin Convention Centre.

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