Deputy Chief Minister to Highlight Strong NT Economy in Japan

Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, will travel to Japan tomorrow to hold key discussions with Inpex officials and representatives from Japanese financial institutions.

This will be Ms Lawrie’s first trip to Japan and she will be travelling with Inpex Darwin General Manager, Mr Sean Kildare.

“The Northern Territory Government continues to work closely with Inpex on its proposed US$20 billion plus gas processing plant and pipeline to Darwin,” Ms Lawrie said.

“I will be meeting with Inpex officials to discuss and reaffirm the Territory Government’s support for this project that will create investment and jobs for the Territory.

“As well as meeting with Inpex officials, I will also be meeting with representatives from Japanese financial institutions to highlight the many investment opportunities that our significant natural resources present.

“I believe the Territory has a great economic story to tell with Access Economics predicting the strongest jobs growth in the nation over the next five years, low unemployment rates and solid economic growth averaging at 3.6 per cent a year.

“Darwin is an ideal geographical location and the Northern Territory Government is maximising our location with the establishment of a Marine Supply Base to increase offshore gas and oil industries to service the Top End and South East Asia.”

Ms Lawrie also welcomed Inpex releasing today an invitation to tender for the semi-submersible central processing facility located at the Ichthys Gas field.

“This is further sign that Darwin is the preferred location for the Inpex project,” she said.

“To date, Inpex has already invested $35 million in goods and services in the Territory while expressions of interest have been called for more than AU$3 billion in work.”

Inpex is expected to make a final investment decision for the Ichthys LNG project late next year.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed LNG project is continuing with stringent guidelines to ensure a thorough and transparent environmental assessment is undertaken.

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