Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today welcomed an announcement by Foreign Affairs Minister, Alexander Downer, that the Timor Sea Treaty was expected to be introduced into Federal Parliament tomorrow.

"What this means for Territorians is more jobs as it paves the way for first-gas from the Timor Sea to come onshore for our economic development," she said.

"The Territory Government has been in close contact with the Federal Government and the East Timorese over the weekend and during the past six months, trying to get this Treaty ratified.

"I congratulate the Federal and East Timorese Governments for apparently resolving the complex issues relating to the joint development zone in the Timor Sea.

"Once this Treaty gets through the Federal Parliament it is expected that ConocoPhillips and the other joint venturers will be able to make the final investment decision to go ahead with the $1.6 billion LNG plant at Wickham Point, employing about 1000 Territorians in the construction stage alone.

"The gas will come via pipeline from the Timor Sea gas deposit at Bayu-Undan.

"This Government has demonstrated its confidence that Bayu-Undan gas would come onshore to Darwin by committing nearly $20 million in funds for roadworks and infrastructure at Wickham Point.

"During my recent overseas visit I met ConocoPhillips CEO, Jim Mulva, and representatives from Bechtel to discuss employment and local content issues at the LNG plant.

"I want to congratulate the members of Team NT who have worked so hard to try to get gas onshore - they have held their nerve in the face of many seeming impediments.

"There are still a few more hurdles to overcome, but this development is now moving in the right direction.

"This project will provide a confidence boost to business, especially those that have been experiencing a tough time over the past few years."