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New director to lead Territory Development

Dave Malone, one of the Territory's leading business figures, has been appointed the first Executive Director of the Office of Territory Development (OTD), Chief Minister, Clare Martin, announced today.

"Mr Malone is a high profile, articulate spokesman for Territory business and has an excellent business network throughout Australia," she said.

"He has a Bachelor of Economics from Northern Territory University and has played key roles with the railway and Timor Sea gas, which makes him ideal for this important position."

Ms Martin said that the OTD played a key role in the Territory's economic development and the appointment of a local person was an exciting move.

"This job requires strong collaboration between the public and private sectors, energy, enthusiasm, leadership and an understanding of local issues - each of which Mr Malone will provide," she said.

As General Manager of the Territory Construction Association (TCA) for the past six years, Mr Malone worked closely with ADrail and Bob Collins to maximise participation and training by Territory businesses and local workers (particularly Indigenous Territorians) on the railway.

More recently, Mr Malone has played a key role in Team NT, lobbying politicians and industry associations around Australia to have Sunrise gas brought onshore.

Mr Malone is also spokesman for the Institute of Northern Territory Economic Development, which earlier this year commissioned a major report on the economic benefits of the onshore gas pipeline as opposed to the floating LNG option.

He is a member of the NT Business Council and other Territory industry groups, chairs the Construction Training Board and was on the organising committee of the Economic Summit held by the Government last year.

Previous to working at TCA, Mr Malone spent three years as Executive Officer of the Business Services Group and AusIndustry Business Manager in the Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry. He also worked in other agencies including Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

Ms Martin said that the OTD was established by Government last November to provide strategic economic advice and co-ordinate investment attraction and major project facilitation.

Its primary areas of responsibility include oil and gas developments, the Sunrise gas campaign, the Asian Gateway strategy to build trade from the new railway and port, Desert Knowledge Australia, Tropical Knowledge, marketing the Territory, and other special projects.

"After scouring Australia to get the best candidate for the job, in the end it was decided that Dave Malone, as a local person, had the enthusiasm, knowledge and industry contacts," she said.

"Anyone who has dealt with him knows the passion and patriotism he'll
The Chief Minister confirmed that Bob Collins would continue as a Senior Adviser to the Office and also thanked Geoff Farnell, who has been Acting Executive Director, for his contribution during the past year.

Mr Malone takes up his position on 4 November 2002.