Chief Minister Clare Martin will leave for Japan tomorrow for a three day trade mission to consolidate Darwin’s position as a gas hub.

“I want to make the Territory the place to buy LNG and invest in gas industries and the development of the emerging technology of gas to liquids,” Ms Martin said.

“This is about jobs for the future – building on the 6000 jobs we helped to create in the Territory in the last year – more than 2000 of those were new apprentices or trainees.

“Darwin is now established as a gas centre with the $1.6 billion LNG plant at Wickham Point in production.

“The Government wants to expand the LNG facilities and move on to the next plant as soon as possible.

“We are pushing to establish a gas manufacturing base in Darwin with new projects based on ammonia, methanol, olefins and their derivatives.

“These can be used to produce everything from explosives for mining, to the plastics used to make black polypipe and garden furniture.

“Australia has about 150 trillion cubic feet of gas with a potential value of $500 to $750 billion.”

In Tokyo, the Chief Minister will meet with representatives from the Tokyo Electric Power Company, Tokyo Gas, the Dow Chemical Company and Inpex Holdings.

The trade mission includes a meeting with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry on business opportunities in the Northern Territory.

Ms Martin will also travel to Osaka to meet with officials from the Osaka Gas Company.

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