15 May 2008

300 JOBS ON NEW GAS PIPELINE

Work is underway on a new $170 million gas pipeline that will secure the Northern Territory’s energy supply needs for 25 years.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson has today travelled to Ban Ban Springs, about 150 kilometres south of Darwin, to inspect construction of the 285 kilometre Bonaparte gas pipeline.

“This pipeline is an investment in the Territory’s future,” Mr Henderson said.

“The construction of the pipeline is the next step in the agreement for the Power and Water Corporation to purchase gas from ENI Australia to run power stations across the Territory.

“About 300 jobs will be created during the five-month construction of the pipeline, and workers will live in mobile camps along the route.

“More than $70 million in opportunities for Territory businesses have already been identified, including camp accommodation and supplies, civil engineering, plant hire and equipment and personnel transportation.

“Importantly, the construction contractor AJ Lucas is working closely with the Northern Land Council to identify job opportunities on the project for Indigenous Territorians.”

ENI will bring gas from the Blacktip Gas Field in the Timor Sea, onshore at a processing plant near Wadeye.

The gas will then be transported through the new pipeline to Ban Ban Springs, where it will connect with the existing gas pipeline running from Alice Springs to Darwin.

The entire project, including the construction of the onshore gas processing facility, is expected to inject about $500 million into the Territory economy.

The pipeline is expected to supply the first gas to Power and Water in January 2009.

“This is an important project that will deliver for Territory families and the economy now and in to the future,” said Mr Henderson.

Contact: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389