



TERRY MILLS MLA | **Member for BLAIN**
CHIEF MINISTER OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

MEDIA RELEASE

SECURING GAS TO GOVE AND THE NATIONS FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS

February 7th, 2013

Chief Minister, Terry Mills, will continue to maintain unceasing effort to resolve the complex issue of securing gas to Gove presented to the Territory by Rio Tinto and Pacific Aluminium. The response to this challenge has provided a new approach by developing visionary plans for a Territory and national energy policy.

Mr Mills said the issue of domestic gas availability is not exclusively a Territory issue it is a national issue.

“Currently most of Australia’s valuable natural gas goes to supply the international market, resulting in a decreased domestic supply, and leaving many Australian industries struggling with short supply and higher energy prices,” Mr Mills said.

“In recent meetings with my federal colleagues and international energy companies, I have introduced an important new agenda item; a stronger focus on domestic gas supply through the connecting pipelines to build a national pipeline grid.

“I welcome the investment of companies exploring in the Northern Territory and offshore waters, by expanding the domestic market through a national pipeline grid, an increase in investment should follow.

“Companies including Eni, GDF Suez, Santos, and Inpex have also expressed in recent talks their interest to work with the Northern Territory Government to ensure this development can occur in the future.

“Discussions about securing long-term gas supplies through an upgraded energy policy agenda have also been held with Rio Tinto and Pacific Aluminium, in the context of securing a gas supply for their alumina refinery in Gove.

“While a decision by Rio Tinto on the future of the refinery is imminent, I remain committed to securing gas for Gove while at the same time protecting the broader interests of Territorians.”

Mr Mills is currently in London to meet Rio Tinto CEO, Sam Walsh, to secure the future of Nhulunbuy.

Media Contact:

Danielle Lede 0404 515 414 / 0428 139 119