Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Growing Territory trade with Asia

26 November 2014

The Giles Government is setting a new regulatory framework for the Territory’s Ports, positioning them to meet the demands of a growing Northern Australia.

“Territory Ports, particularly the Port of Darwin, are critical economic infrastructure, underpinning our reputation as the gateway between Asia and Australia,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Port of Darwin has been going from strength to strength in recent years with record numbers of live cattle leaving Darwin this year. We want the Port to grow in size and capacity.”

The Government announced back in February that it had engaged reputed independent advisors, Flagstaff Partners, to develop an over-arching strategy for attracting private investment in our marine infrastructure. (NTG Port Release - 23 February)

“Flagstaff’s report has found that the Port has plenty of room for expansion and we have decided to go out and test the market, to gauge interest from the private sector in a possible long-term lease or other options that would provide significant investment into the Port,” Mr Giles said.

“We want to help the Port to be bigger and better. A long-term lease could assist with this expansion, creating new jobs in the marine, manufacturing, service and supply industries by making the investments the Port needs.

“No final decisions have been made on private investment but the Government is keen to explore the options.

“Proceeds from such a lease could also add to the pool of money available in our $215 million Infrastructure Development Fund for re-investment in other long-term projects that are vital to the Territory’s future.

“Legislation will be introduced into the Parliament allowing for a market-testing process to begin and establishing a new regulatory model for the Port of Darwin and designated Territory Ports, to better position them for future growth.”

Government Officials will begin meeting with prospective investors next week and Registrations of Interest will open in late December.
The Darwin Port Corporation has begun briefing its staff about the new legislation and the market-testing process that is about to begin.

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