Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Tiwi woodchip destined for Japan provides economic boost and jobs for locals  
25 November 2015

A Tiwi Islands forestry project that will create jobs for local people and inject millions into the local economy has taken an historic step forward with the first stockpile of woodchip being loaded on to a cargo ship from Japan.

Chief Minister Adam Giles congratulated the Tiwi people for their hard work creating a sustainable forestry industry on their land.

“This is a shining example of how economic development can and should occur on Aboriginal land,” Mr Giles said.

“It is not easy to run a business, particularly in remote parts of the Northern Territory, but the Tiwi people have never given up and shown great determination to create real, long-term jobs on their land.

“This is the first of many ships that will visit the Tiwi Islands over the coming years, delivering thousands of tonnes of woodchip to the south-east Asian market and injecting millions of dollars into the Tiwi economy.”

The project is expected to create 80 Indigenous jobs and generate up to $150 million in export revenue over the next five years.

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tiwi Land Council and Land Trust in December 2013 outlining a partnership approach to economic development.

“The Country Liberals Government has been working closely with the community to create Tiwi jobs on Tiwi land,” he said.

“The forestry has been central to that vision with the Tiwi people managing over 30,000 hectares of plantations on Melville Island, with all the profits going back into the community.”

Mr Giles said the Country Liberals Government was investing $33.5 million over three years to seal Pickettaramoor Road to support the forestry and other economic projects on the islands.

“Sealing the road will make it easier for harvesting trucks and equipment to move to and from Port Melville,” he said.
“The 40,000 tonnes of Tiwi woodchip being loaded this week bound for Japan is only the beginning with the plantations to be replanted annually and ships expected to return to Port Melville every two months.

“The Country Liberals Government looks forward to continuing to work with the Tiwi people to drive economic development and create lasting, meaningful jobs for the community.”

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