

Friday, March 28, 2003

### **Greater Sunrise Gas Project Gets EIS Approval**

The Northwestern Territories' Minister for Environment and Heritage, Dr Chris Burns, said the Government had accepted the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the first stage of the Sunrise Gas Project, including a number of recommendations and conditions the project must meet to proceed.

"The Government sought public submissions on the project, and as a result of this process has placed a number of conditions on the development, including a requirement that the project partners undertake a comprehensive waste management plan and greenhouse gas reduction strategy.

"Further, the Government will require the project partners to undertake a specific environmental monitoring program for the duration of the project, to ensure that the impact on marine life and water quality is minimized," Dr Burns said.

"With these conditions, the Government has accepted the recommendation from the Office of Environment and Heritage that the first stage of the Sunrise Gas Project can proceed. "The stage one assessment process, which included extensive public consultation, considered the extraction of oil and gas from the Sunrise field. Further proposals regarding possible onshore stages will be considered for assessment when they are received.

"The Territory Government is committed to bringing gas onshore from the Sunrise project, and will continue to work with the project proponents to develop a viable customer base for Sunrise gas onshore. This is the best way to maximize employment and local business opportunities," Dr Burns said.

The developers of the Sunrise field are Woodside Petroleum, Shell, ConocoPhillips and Osaka Gas. Woodside is the project operator.