



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



14th February 2005

EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS SOAR AT LNG PLANT

The numbers of workers employed at ConocoPhillips' LNG Plant has exceeded all expectations Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today.

"Construction activity is nearing full scale and, right now, there are 1,750 people working at the site - we originally expected a thousand workers during the peak of the plant's construction phase."

"Of the 1,750 total workers on the project 1,450 are tradespeople and 48% of the tradespeople are Territorian which is a significant achievement."

Ms Martin said that original projections were for 25% of the workforce to be local and that Government has provided strong support for the project because of its potential to drive economic growth and create good jobs for Territorians.

The Chief Minister visited the site of the \$1.6 billion project, accompanied by ConocoPhillips' Darwin manager, Blair Murphy and Bechtel Construction's site manager, Hal Thornberry.

"Importantly, the benefits of the project are being felt in areas other than construction with hundreds of Bechtel workers moving into the community rather than living at the work camp in Palmerston," she said.

"Of the 1700 employed at the Plant, approximately 600 are accommodated at the Bechtel camp which means that many Bechtel employees have moved into the community - this is great news for local business."

Ms Martin said that Bechtel has been working at the Wickham Point construction site for over a-year-and-a-half, with construction now 47% complete.

"The construction phase of the plant has been significant for job creation and local business, with hundreds of Territory companies benefiting, and its helping keep the Territory moving ahead," she said.

"Significantly, construction of the Marine Jetty is also now well underway with pile driving, precast concrete deck support beams, and trestle construction work reaching to its maximum length," she said.

The completed jetty will be used to allow empty tankers to load their LNG cargoes for export.

"The 500 kilometre sub-sea pipeline running between the plant and the offshore Bayu-Undan platform is expected to be completed in mid-2005 with first Timor Sea gas on-shore at that time," Ms Martin said.

"The first shipment of LNG is due to be exported in the first half of 2006."

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