

## Henderson touts NT as energy industry hub

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NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA: Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson says he will continue to push hard for Darwin to be the oil and gas service and supply industry hub for northern Australia and the region.

In an interview leading up to the 14th annual South East Asia and Australia Offshore Conference (SEAAOC) in July in Darwin, Henderson says his government is chasing major liquefied natural gas (LNG) companies looking to develop projects in Australia.

Darwin is the only site in northern Australia that is "gas ready" and keen to do business, with proximity to countries to the north, China, India and Japan, he says. "It's really the only site in the region that investors can come to tomorrow. We have a one-stop-shop within the Chief Minister's Department of Major Projects that companies can deal with so they don't have the run around of government agencies."

Henderson notes that ConocoPhillips, operator of the LNG plant at Darwin's Wickham Point, has approvals to go from three million tonnes (3.3 million tons) per annum production to 10 million tonnes (11 million tons)."

Henderson says, "We're obviously talking very closely with Woodside and would like to see Sunrise brought on shore to Darwin, as well as chasing Inpex."

Inpex is developer of the Ichthys field off the north-west coast of Western Australia.

Henderson says that while high oil prices affect the NT economy, the development of oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea and Bonaparte Gulf provide interesting and exciting times. "The Ichthys Field has just been re-evaluated to have 500 million barrels of condensate along with 13 trillion cubic feet of gas, so getting these types of [processing] projects to Darwin is very important to my government.

"As well as the capital investment and the ongoing jobs that the Wickham Point LNG project has created, it really sparks significant confidence in the NT and Darwin economy, and has led to investment in a number of other economic sectors.

"So, as well as a direct benefit it also generates confidence for other sectors to invest in - that's why we're going after our second LNG plant as hard as we can."

Henderson says LNG will be a very viable option into the future for Australia where most power generation is coal-fired, "unless they get clean coal right, unless they get carbon sequestration right."

Henderson will open SEAAOC with an address outlining his government's vision for Darwin as an oil and gas service and supply industry hub.

Other government speakers include the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy Martin Ferguson; Papua New Guinea Minister for Petroleum and Energy William Duma; and the Indonesian Director General of Oil and Gas Luluk Sumiarso.

From industry will be speakers from ConocoPhillips, MEO Australia, Osaka Gas Australia, ENI Australia, Chevron Australia, Nexus Energy, INPEX Browse, ExxonMobil, Oilsearch and Nexant Singapore, as well as a number of independent analysts and consultants.