

## NT Labor hopes to attract voters, Inpex

Tuesday, 29 July 2008

**NORTHERN Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson, who last week called for an early August election, has promised more tax cuts and higher spending on both infrastructure and building the territory's skilled workforce if elected.**

These measures would also help make NT more attractive for major projects such as Inpex's Ichthys LNG development.

He said that Labor will, over the next four years, cut payroll tax from 5.9% to 5.5%, saving business about \$10 million a year; establish Workforce Growth NT to attract more people to live and work in NT; and invest \$3.5 billion – including \$870 million committed in this year's budget – in infrastructure spending.

"We have made the territory the lowest taxing jurisdiction for business – with more tax cuts to come," Henderson said.

He had last week committed Labor to investing an additional \$10 million over the next four years to build a skilled workforce in the NT.

This includes about \$4 million to support 10,000 apprentices and traineeship commencements; doubling the funding for the Build Skills program to help workers upgrade qualifications to \$1 million per year; and \$2 million to establish regional job training hubs in Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek to match employees and training to real jobs in those regions.

The NT is attempting to convince Inpex and Total to pipe gas almost 1000km from the Ichthys field to Darwin for liquefaction instead of the Maret Islands off Western Australia.

Henderson had quoted a report from ACIL Tasman that said the JV's planned two-train 8 million tonne per annum LNG development to commercialise the Ichthys field could boost the NT's economy by about \$50 billion due to flow-through benefits.

The NT will go to the polls on August 9.



NORTHERN Territory  
Chief Minister Paul  
Henderson