4 May 2013

Draft Environmental Impact Statement released for Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline

Pacific Aluminium today released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline.

The project involves the construction and operation of a 603 kilometre natural gas pipeline from a connection approximately 20 kilometres south of Katherine to the Gove alumina refinery in north east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

The draft EIS describes the potential social and environmental impacts during the construction and operation of the pipeline and the proposed actions to mitigate those impacts. The document was prepared following a number of social and environmental studies and consultation with a range of stakeholders.

Pacific Aluminium Chief Operating Officer Northern Territory, Duncan Hedditch, said “The Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline project is committed to ensuring the construction and operation of the pipeline has minimal adverse impact on the environment and local communities.

“The pipeline and refinery conversion will provide a number of long-term environmental benefits including very significant reductions in emissions of sulphur dioxide and greenhouse gases,” Mr Hedditch said.

“This project will help underpin the refinery’s long-term future and sustain the significant social and economic benefits it delivers to the community of Nhulunbuy, local businesses, Traditional Owners and the Northern Territory.

“Gas to Gove will double the size of the domestic gas market, drive further investment in gas exploration and infrastructure, increase long-term gas supply, help attract new industries and create jobs for Territorians,” he said.

Mr Hedditch said the company is continuing to make positive progress finalising commercial arrangements for gas supply and securing financing support for the pipeline from the Commonwealth Government.

Members of the community are invited to review and comment on the draft EIS from Saturday 4 May to Friday 28 June 2013.

The document will be on display in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Barunga, Beswick, Bulman, Ngukkur, Gapiwiyak, Yirrkala and Canberra. It is also available on the Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline project website (www.kggpipeline.com.au) and the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority website (www.ntepa.nt.gov.au).

The project team will hold a number of community information sessions to provide information about the project, outline the draft EIS findings and provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions. These sessions will be advertised locally.

Community members can contact the project team via the free call number 1800 747 354 or email enquiries@kggpipeline.com.au with any specific questions or concerns.

Media enquiries:
For further information please contact Anthony Havers on mobile: 0459 847 758 or email Anthony.Havers@pacificaluminium.com.au