



Delia Lawrie
ACTING CHIEF MINISTER

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Darwin Port Establishes Partnership

The Northern Territory Government has welcomed today's news from the Australian Stock Exchange that a major mining company is in discussions with the Darwin Port Corporation to ship rock phosphate through the Darwin Port.

The Acting Chief Minister Delia Lawrie said Perth-based company Minemakers has signed a Heads of Agreement to begin formal negotiations about shipping rock phosphate from the Wonarah Phosphate Project in the Barkly through the Port's shiploading facility.

"The agreement is the next step in the company's efforts to establish one of Australia's largest known phosphate resources," Ms Lawrie said.

"In these times of economic downturn, it's encouraging to see companies continuing to invest and create jobs in the Territory.

"Minemakers and the Darwin Port Corporation will enter discussions on the handling of rock phosphate through the existing facilities and will also identify future requirements."

Ms Lawrie said Minemakers is in the process of lodging applications for approvals required to mine Wonarah.

The company estimates the resource is equal to 130 million tonnes of phosphate.

"Phosphate is a critical ingredient in agricultural fertiliser and has in the past been largely sourced from Morocco," Ms Lawrie said.

"Price rises in recent years make Wonarah a more than viable prospect, with the potential to deliver jobs and investment to the Territory over a 30-year period.

"The Territory Government is proud to support the mining industry. Our commitment of \$100 million to upgrade the Darwin Port, coupled with the Federal Government's \$50 million for a railway loop and rail dump will certainly ensure a greater volume of exports."

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