

construction
industry

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE PETROLEUM CLUB NT, SONIA HARVEY



Helping business adapt to changing landscape

INDUSTRY has produced a program to assist business transition from the construction phase of a major project to the operational phase.

Construction of the \$34 billion Inpex program will peak this year and will start to prepare for its operational phase by the second half of 2017, offering up millions of dollars in contract opportunities.

The Petroleum Club NT, the Manufacturers Council, the Chamber of Commerce NT, the Industry Capability Network and Engineers Australia have combined for a three-phase program designed to assist business prepare for the work.

Manufacturers Council chairman Owen Pike said it was a good initiative of the PCNT, supported by the Department of Business.

"It's a good initiative and great to see the government supporting this," he said. "It's critical for local business seeking this type of work to make the investment in be-

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coming educated in oil and gas and seeking collaboration opportunities to maximise local content. Local Business also have to make an effort to maximise opportunity ... it is not just the responsibility of big business and Government to spend locally."

The chief executive of the Petroleum Club NT, Sonia Harvey, said the SME Maximiser Development Program was based on the lessons learned in Queensland and New South Wales.

"We went to Gladstone and Newcastle and looked at how those areas transitioned from a construction boom into an operating phase," she said. "What they did to support local SMEs into that transition. We learned from those regions on what they did well and not so well."

"We've developed something that is more comprehensive and specific to the NT." The three-phase SME Maximiser Development Program starts with an industry education phase next week.

"We are getting industry experts to come up and give an overview of the operational and maintenance plans for the major projects up here," Ms Harvey said. "They will identify the major contract opportunities for the supply chain for the SMEs. This will be a two-day event seminar."

Preference for the final stage will be given to the SMEs that have attended the other phases of the program.

The cost for the first phase starts at \$250 for petroleum club members and \$300 for non-members.

Phase two is on August 17 and Phase Three is scheduled for the first week of September.

For more information about the program, visit www.pcnt.com.au