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# Open for business: Eyes on Territory gas, energy

**F**or too long, the Territory has been overlooked. But last week, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with gas and energy industry leaders at the Australian Energy Producers Conference in Brisbane, it was clear: the NT needs to top the national agenda.

Alongside Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro, Territory Coordinator Stuart Knowles, and senior executives from both the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Mining and Energy, we sent a clear message to national and international decision-makers – the Northern Territory is open for business. And not just open, we're ready, willing and determined to drive energy investment, unlock our abundant natural resources, and take full advantage of the opportunities for jobs, growth, and energy security.

The response from industry was clear – they believe in the Northern Territory, and they are backing us. From boardrooms to breakfast panels, the buzz around the NT, particularly the Beetaloo Sub-basin, was unmistakable.

It's no secret that the east coast is facing a structural shortfall in gas from 2027.

In a room full of energy leaders, it was clear that the Beetaloo stands as the most feasible, emissions-effective and cost-effective solution to this looming challenge. It means cheap energy for Territorians, and the rest of the country.

And it was encouraging to hear the federal Minister for Resources, and Northern Australia Madeleine King speak so clearly about the importance of harnessing Australia's energy potential to "drive productivity and deliver practical outcomes for all Australians".

That sentiment reflects exactly what

**Gerard Maley**



we are doing here in the Territory; unlocking the Beetaloo to generate jobs, energy security and long-term prosperity. It's clear that aligning our efforts will unlock the full potential of the Beetaloo, which represents the largest volume of uncontracted gas in the country, and benefit all Australians.

First Beetaloo gas sales are scheduled for 2025, and already we are seeing strong investment from American shale gas experts such as Helmerich & Payne, Liberty Energy, Halliburton and Daly Waters Energy. That is not a coincidence, it's a direct result of the work we've done to make the Northern Territory an attractive, confident place to do business again.

At the first NT-hosted event at the AEP Conference in several years, I was proud to welcome stakeholders and industry leaders to the NT Minister's Breakfast with Beetaloo event.

The optimism in the room was backed by action and a clear intent to be part of the Territory's energy future.

As Empire Energy managing director Alex Underwood aptly put it, developing the Beetaloo allows them "to put gas into a really starved local market, and that's something that we are very proud to do, to look after the local NT energy market".

Tamboran chief executive Joel Riddle was just as confident: "Outside the lower 48 of the US, the Beetaloo represents that next big thing," he said, "The investors have an extremely strong conviction around the Beetaloo in general".

That kind of endorsement doesn't come lightly.

As Minister for Mining and Energy, I



(From left) Joel Riddle CEO Tamboran Resources, Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro, Daly Waters Energy boss Bryan Sheffield, Deputy Chief Minister Gerard Maley, Empire Energy chief executive officer, managing director Alex Underwood.



Gerard Maley at Newmont Tanami mine in the Red Centre.

could not be more proud of the momentum we've built.

And this is just the beginning. For too long, our potential was stifled by red tape, uncertainty, and a regulatory culture that frightened investment away. In just nine months, the CLP government has turned that around.

We've abolished third-party merits review, introduced the Territory Coordinator, and strengthened the Sacred Sites Act, reforms that industry says are giving them the clarity and confidence to invest in the NT's future.

We've also reformed payroll tax, lifting the Territory's tax-free threshold

from \$1.5m to \$2.5m, which is the most competitive in the country.

This change allows local businesses an opportunity to expand, hire more workers, and be ready to capitalise on the opportunities the Beetaloo will bring.

We've declared 2025 as our Year of Action, Certainty and Security, and we are hitting the ground running.

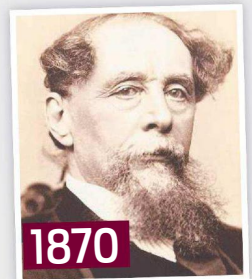
Our presence at AEP, and the strong reception we received, is proof that confidence in the Territory is growing.

That's good news for our energy future, good news for our economy, and good news for every Territorian who wants to see this place thrive.

Because when the Territory gets moving, Australia moves with us.

The Northern Territory is open for business. Let's get to work.

**Gerard Maley is the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Mining and Energy**



**1870**

**ON THIS day**

**68AD** Fearing the rising influence of rebellious governor Galba, Roman emperor Nero commits suicide at the age of 30. Galba is declared emperor.

**1549** The Church of England adopts the Book of Common Prayer, compiled by Thomas Cranmer.

**1803** Matthew Flinders returns to Sydney after more than 18 months circumnavigating New Holland, charting the coast.

**1849** The convict ship *Hashemy* arrives in NSW with 212 convicts. However, because penal transportation to NSW ended nine years earlier, 4,000 people protest, forcing the ship to head to Moreton Bay.

**1851** Leading city officials agree to offer a reward for the discovery of payable gold found within 200 miles (322km) of Melbourne, which leads to mass job desertion as many join the gold rush.

**1870** British novelist Charles Dickens (above) dies at the age of 58 after suffering a stroke while working on his final book *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

**1928** Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm become the first people to fly across the Pacific when they complete their flight from California to Brisbane.

**1934** Disney's Donald Duck makes his debut in the Silly Symphonies cartoon *The Wise Little Hen*.

**1940** German tank forces under Major General Erwin Rommel cross the Seine River in a push to the Atlantic coast of France.

**1979** Seven people die in a fire on the ghost-train ride at Sydney's Luna Park.

**1983** British Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, buoyed by victory in the Falkland Islands War and by deep divisions within the opposition Labour Party, was easily re-elected to a second term in office.

**2015** Treasurer Joe Hockey gives homeowners a tip: "The starting point for a first homebuyer is to get a good job that pays good money."

## Note, you can't beat Australian music

**Colin Vickery**



**I** have a confession. I am ashamed to say that when I was a teenager, I was a music snob and did not value Australian pop and rock 'n' roll.

Back in the 1970s I was enamoured with British acts such as Roxy Music, T. Rex and David Bowie, as well as American artist Alice Cooper.

The first LP I bought was *The Monkees* debut, released in 1966.

When I got *The Beatles*' *Abbey Road* in 1969, at age 11, I thought I was so grown up.

I watched *Countdown* religiously from its 1974 start, but what got me really excited was seeing the clips and interviews with overseas artists.

But then I had an epiphany.

It was during the Covid lockdowns. With plenty of time on my hands I started to list what I considered the greatest songs of all time.

There was no question about my No.1 – Elvis Presley's (pictured) *In the Ghetto*.

But when I thought about others I would put in the pantheon, I came up with Russell Morris's *The Real Thing*, Daddy Cool's *Eagle Rock*, and Stevie Wright's *Evie*, Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Say what? Hang on a minute, if three of my top four songs of all time were Australian, I seriously needed to admit that when I was younger I had

a case of cultural cringe.

I had fallen into the trap of believing that this country's music was inferior to anything made overseas.

That revelation led to more soul-searching. I remembered how pumped the Ted Mulry Gang's *Jump in My Car* and Hush's *Bony Maronie* had made me feel – every bit as good as *Slade* and *Status Quo* did.

And what about AC/DC on a truck down Swanston St playing *It's a Long Way to the Top*?

Memories came flooding back – Zoot's version of *Eleanor Rigby*. Doug Parkinson's *Dear Prudence*. Brian Cadd's *Ginger Man*. Colleen Hewett's *Day By Day*. Spectrum's *I'll Be Gone*. *The Masters Apprentices*' *Turn Up Your Radio*. Chain's *Black*



and Blue. Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs lighting up Sunbury with *Be-Bop-a-Lula* and *Ooh Poo Pah Doo*.

Truth: Living in the 70s and Daddy Who? Daddy Cool! are classic albums from front to back.

Now I am doing a deep dive into more local music from my teenage years, including by Carson, MacKenzie Theory, Lobby Loyde, Blackfeather, Buffalo and Maddler Lake. Australia, you rock!

**Colin Vickery is a Melbourne writer**