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APPEA welcomes NT Build changes

The oil and gas industry has welcomed changes to the NT Build scheme announced today by the Northern Territory Government.

The changes were unveiled by the Minister for Mines and Energy Willem Westra van Holthe at the APPEA 2014 annual conference and exhibition in Perth.

APPEA Chief Executive David Byers said: "The reforms will help make the Northern Territory more attractive for new investment in oil and gas and other industries.

"The scheme imposes a levy on projects to provide long-service benefits to construction workers. In its current form, the cost to companies far exceeds the benefits to workers.

"The changes proposed by the NT Government for major projects will reduce the scheme's cost to business while improving workers' entitlements.

"This is a win-win outcome for everyone because more investment in the Territory means more jobs.

"Chief Minister Adam Giles and his Government should be applauded for listening to industry and for recognising that action needs to be taken to address high construction costs if the Territory is to continue to attract the capital needed for big oil and gas projects.

"APPEA looks forward to working with the NT Government to ensure the changes are implemented and do not disadvantage existing projects."

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