

FOUR-STAR TOURIST RESORT FOR GROOTE



Chief Minister Clare Martin, Tony Wurramarrba and Lucas Dow (GEMCO) toast the resort project.

AN \$18 MILLION tourist resort on Groote Eylandt was officially underway this week with the turning of the first sod by Chief Minister Clare Martin and Anindilyakwa Land Council chairman Tony Wurramarrba.

The four-star Dugong Beach Resort, the first ever for the island community of Alyangula, will create a number of employment and training opportunities.

Visitors to the 120-bed resort will be able to choose from motel-style business suites and family rooms, executive bungalows and VIP air-conditioned tents. It will feature a fishing village, art and cultural centre, restaurant and bar. Tourism NT will work with the community on cultural and nature tours to complement the resort's facilities.

About 100 people including traditional owners and representatives of GEMCO attended the sod-turning ceremony on Tuesday and received a site tour.

The project has been years in the planning and is expected to open in July 2007. The NT Government will contribute about \$70,000 to the project to assist with business and product development and promotions.

Business on show in Sabah and Brunei

TERRITORY BUSINESSES SHOWCASED their products and services last week in Brunei and the Malaysian province of Sabah, making useful relationships on which to base future opportunities.

Chief Minister and Minister for Asian Relations and Trade Clare Martin and Primary Industry Minister Kon

Vatskalis led a delegation of business and education officials. There were a range of potentially positive outcomes, including a trial of Safari Trek's mosquito and fly traps in tourist resorts and by a vet in Sabah, and Time Out Fitness promoting its fitness training by holding aerobics sessions in Brunei and Sabah. Australian Spirulina also attracted considerable interest in its product, which is well-known in Asia.

Other participants included Darwin City Council; Australia Business Training and Support; Northern Gateway; Mailfast; Stickers and Stuff; the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines; the Department of Employment, Education and Training; Charles Darwin University and the Arafura Games.

Numbers reflect continuing growth

THE TERRITORY'S EMPLOYMENT, job advertisements and housing market are continuing their strong growth, latest figures demonstrate.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures show that the number of Territorians employed has increased in the past year, and the Territory's unemployment rate has fallen from 5% to 4.7%. ANZ figures showed an annual increase of 14.4% in newspaper job ads in the Territory compared with a decrease of 3.4% nationally.

According to the ABS, housing finance commitments for owner occupation in the Territory grew by 23.6% in the year to June, compared with 11.2% nationally.

The Northern Territory Real Estate Institute reported this week that the average price of a house in Darwin's northern suburbs has risen by 46% in the past year, bringing the average price to \$424,000.

Interest invited for Tennant wind farm

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST have been called to build a wind farm at Tennant Creek to supply power to remote communities in Central Australia.

Power and Water Corporation advertised the project last week, with expressions of interest due by 27 September.

Skilled workers learn about the Territory

JOBS AND LIFESTYLE opportunities in the Territory have been promoted interstate in the latest stage of the Skilled Worker Recruitment Campaign.

The Territory was on show at the Sydney Careers Expo, attended by 30,000 people, an information evening in Newcastle, and through a media campaign.

More than 4775 people have now registered their interest in jobs in the Territory, and 20 to 30 enquiries are being received each week.