



2015: Moving the Territory Ahead
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Northern Territory Government Policies and Strategies



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A summary of the Northern Territory Government's policies, strategies and other formal initiatives influencing economic development of the Northern Territory as at 1 November 2005.

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Departmental acronyms

DCM	Department of the Chief Minister
NTT	Northern Territory Treasury
DCIS	Department of Corporate and Information Services
DBERD	Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development
DLGHS	Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport
DNRETA	Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
DPIFM	Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DHCS	Department of Health and Community Services
OCPE	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment

Introduction

Purpose of the paper

A number of policies, strategies and plans have been approved by Government and published during 2001 to 2005. Additionally, regions through the Regional Development Boards and other community and local government organisations have documented regional and local priorities.

This paper presents an overview of these policies, strategies and plans under five key areas.

- Economic development
- Regional and Indigenous economic development
- Job creation and workforce development
- Infrastructure development
- Other policies and strategies

Scope

This paper is primarily focused on those policies, strategies and plans aimed at improving economic outcomes.

However, building the capacity of individuals and communities to develop their potential and contribute to society underpins economic development. Similarly, economic development plays an important role in improved social outcomes.

As such, this document also makes reference to key social policies and strategies.

Northern Territory Policies and Strategies

Economic Development Strategy 2002 – Building a Better Territory

In 2002, the Northern Territory Government's 'Building a Better Territory' strategy set out a blueprint for the Territory's future that pinpointed 357 strategic initiatives for the public and private sectors.

The Government's approach to future economic development was contained in five strategies.

- Building on past success and create new industries.
- Encouraging skill and innovation
- Improving economic outcomes for Indigenous Territorians.
- Developing the Territory's regions.
- Creating an attractive investment climate

'Building a Better Territory' addressed each of the strategies under five themes.

Core Industries that have played an important part in the economy for some time – mining, primary industries and tourism.

Economic Drivers – transport, infrastructure and land use, increasingly in partnership with the private sector. The economic drivers play a significant role in enabling the economy to diversify.

Developing **Emerging Industries** to contribute to broadening and deepening economic activity, particularly in gas manufacturing, and trade and investment.

Regional Initiatives underscoring that viable regions and strong Indigenous economic development are every bit as important as economic diversity.

Economic Support deals with the key roles Government plays in creating an environment supportive of business, the primary engine of job creation and growth.

Late in 2004 the Northern Territory Government reported that more than 95 per cent of the initiatives contained within "Building a Better Territory" had been acted upon. Of the 357 initiatives put forward, only 15 remain to be actioned.

The 'Economic Development Strategy 2004 – A Government Report Card', is an examination of how well the targets set in 2002 were achieved. It is available at http://www.otd.nt.gov.au/dcm/otd/major_projects/eco_development_strategy/

Diagram 1 below developed for 'Building a Better Territory' shows how the elements of the Strategy fit together.

The diagram is also useful in providing an overview of the framework for economic development of which the policies and strategies covered in the remainder of this paper are part.

Diagram 1 Economic Development Strategy 2002 – Building a Better Territory



Economic Development

Future economic growth of the Territory is closely linked to investment confidence, a supportive business environment and a skilled workforce.

A competitive environment is one in which Territory businesses and industry are profitable, will attract and retain investment, and create wealth. In addition, new technology, innovation, business and labour skills all contribute significantly to increased industry productivity.

A supportive business environment and legislative framework at a local and national level is necessary and will provide better security for businesses and industries that have invested in the Territory.

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Building NT Industry Participation (Lead agency DBERD)</i>		
Providing competitive businesses with greater opportunities to participate in the future growth of the Northern Territory. The policy includes requirements for Industry Participation Plans in major projects, which identify regional and Indigenous employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the use of local services and supplies ▪ Strengthen the workplace availability of skilled labour ▪ Support greater Indigenous participation in the Northern Territory economy ▪ Provide major project proponents and developers with increased access to quality Territory businesses ▪ Assist major project proponents and developers through reduced costs ▪ Building industry capability and capacity. 	This framework was released in 2003 and is ongoing.
<i>Building Stronger Territory Trade (Lead agency DCM)</i>		
Outlines how the Territory Government is planning to contribute to the expansion of international trade in genuine partnership with business, industry associations and the broader community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building NT Trade Capability ▪ Developing Market awareness and overseas markets ▪ Securing International investment ▪ Expanding the AustralAsia Trade Route ▪ Capitalising on links and Services ▪ Strengthening the services sector internationally. ▪ Increasing international support for small business through the trade support scheme. 	<p>Implementation of the strategy commenced in late 2003. The strategy runs until 2007.</p> <p>As at March 2005, the value of non-oil exports had risen by 17% since commencement of the International Trade Scheme in January 2003.</p> <p>The target under the International Trade Scheme for foreign direct investment was \$2 billion. With the completion of Bayu-Undan, the rail and LNG projects, the foreign direct investment will exceed \$3.8 billion.</p>

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Building the Territory's Resource Base (Lead agency DPIFM)</i>		
An exploration investment attraction program aimed at creating greater opportunities for exploration companies to access the resources of the Northern Territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High-quality pre-competitive geoscientific data ▪ Engagement with the Indigenous Community for land access approval ▪ An accelerated process of issuing exploration and mining tenure 	<p>Implementation of the strategy commenced in early 2005. Over 700 potential explorers and investors have attended presentations and briefings.</p> <p>There has been a 49% increase in licence applications since commencement of the initiative.</p>
<i>Growing our Trade Route (Lead agency DCM)</i>		
Highlights the opportunities and strategic priorities for the future development of the AustralAsia Trade Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grow Darwin's international shipping and aviation connections ▪ Expedite the AustralAsia Trade Route as a viable alternative international trading route ▪ Establish Darwin as Australia's northern trade centre for break bulk deconsolidation activities ▪ Expand Darwin's position as Australia's northern supply base centre ▪ Develop Darwin as the port of choice for bulk mineral exports from Central Australia to Asia ▪ Grow the Territory's trade links 	<p>The initiative was announced in February 2005 and is ongoing and includes:</p> <p>Continuation of supply chain studies to build trade volume and provide critical mass for shipping links.</p> <p>Continuation of the Hai Win trial shipping service between Shanghai and Darwin.</p> <p>Trial shipment of paper products from Surabaya for deconsolidation in Darwin for Australian markets.</p> <p>Bulk minerals handling facility committed and expansion for iron ore under consideration.</p> <p>Negotiating a new Indonesia – Darwin shipping service with potential for extension to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.</p>
<i>Building Stronger Asian Links – Northern Territory Asian Engagement Plan (Lead agency DCM)</i>		
A plan to guide the Territory Government in working with the community and business to achieve their objectives in Asia. Released Feb 2003.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased trade and investment ▪ Linked development for all sectors ▪ Harmonious relations in the region 	Implementation of the plan commenced in February 2003.
<i>NT Tourism Strategic Plan (Lead agency NTTC)</i>		
The Plan focuses on building a sustainable tourism industry in the Territory and sets the direction of tourism in the Territory for the next five years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Destination Development ▪ Access ▪ Infrastructure ▪ Industry Standards ▪ Marketing 	Implementation of the strategy commenced in late 2003. The strategy runs until 2007.

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Making it in the Territory (Lead agency DBERD)</i>		
<p>Focuses on the development of the manufacturing sector in the Northern Territory over the next five years. In particular, the strategy is directed at maximising the growth of the manufacturing sector. It also seeks to harness the new opportunities created by the current and upcoming major development projects in the Territory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growing manufacturing opportunities and markets ▪ Developing manufacturing skills ▪ Creating strategic partnerships ▪ Promoting and supporting manufacturing best practice 	<p>Implementation of the strategy commenced in early 2004. The strategy runs until 2009.</p>
<i>Destination Development Strategy (Lead agency NTTC)</i>		
<p>The Destination Development Strategy employs a destination-based model to guide future tourism development in the Territory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Destination development principles ▪ Process for prioritising NT destinations for development. ▪ An action plan to develop priority destinations 	<p>The strategy commenced in February 2004. The actions plan contains actions for the short (12 months), medium (12-24 months) and long (>2 years) term.</p>
<i>Bringing Gas Onshore (Lead agency DCM)</i>		
<p>Bringing Gas Onshore provides background, status and future directions for development of Timor Sea gas reserves and gas related industry onshore. The Government's vision is stated and past, present and future initiatives are outlined.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LNG for export ▪ Gas for power generation and major resource projects ▪ Gas based manufacturing ▪ The potential to supply gas for the national grid 	<p>Bringing Gas Onshore was released in May 2005.</p> <p>Facilitated Darwin LNG construction to maximise benefit to the NT economy.</p> <p>Planning and regulatory approvals for the BOC helium plant are under way for mid 2006 start.</p> <p>Gas for PowerWater Corporation is a high priority and the subject of commercial negotiations.</p>
<i>Electricity Supply Policy (Lead agency NTT)</i>		
<p>Electricity policy in the Northern Territory is given effect by the <i>Electricity Networks (Third Party Access) Act and Electricity Reform Act</i>.</p> <p>These instruments are intended to promote and maintain competition in the electricity market by providing the basis for the regulation of electricity networks and service standards to ensure customer welfare is maximised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phased introduction of full retail competition based on consumption and subject to a net public benefit test ▪ A uniform tariff policy that subsidises household and small business customer tariffs to mitigate against isolation and high average supply costs (customers pay the same price regardless of supply costs or location). ▪ A business tariff subsidy policy that subsidises medium-sized business customer tariffs. 	<p>Competition is being gradually introduced into the market subject to a net public benefit test. All customers using over 750 MW a year are now contestable.</p> <p>In 2004-05 the Government provided \$35.4M to subsidise retail electricity tariffs for household and small business customers under uniform tariff policy.</p> <p>Medium-sized business customer tariffs have been subsidised since April 2004. In 2004-05 the subsidy was \$8.5M).</p>

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
Payroll tax reduction (Lead agency NTT)		
To provide a more competitive payroll tax regime in the Territory and to reduce the impact of payroll tax on smaller businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successive reductions to the payroll tax rate ▪ Successive increases to the payroll tax free threshold. 	Reduction in the rate from 6.5% to 6.2% (July 2002 and July 2003) and increasing the tax free threshold from \$0.6M to \$1.0M (July 2004 and July 2005) and a further announced increase to \$1.25M from 1 July 2006.
Building Territory Business – Governing for business (Lead agency NTT)		
Describes the policy settings in place that work to support the business sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement reform ▪ Payment of accounts by government ▪ Industry participation ▪ Insurance ▪ National competition policy ▪ Works programs 	Announced in the 2003-04 Northern Territory Government Budget, the initiatives are programmed for implementation over the next three years, with a priority emphasis in 2003-04
Procurement Policy (Lead agency DCIS)		
Aimed at enhancing Territory enterprise and employment, and maximising opportunities for suppliers to compete on an equal and transparent basis for Government contracts in the Territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open and effective competition ▪ Value for money ▪ Enhancing the capabilities of Territory business and industry ▪ Environmental protection ▪ Ethical behaviour and fair dealing 	Released in May 2003 this policy is implemented on an on-going basis by all Northern Territory Government agencies. Initiatives implemented under the policy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of Government Procurement Council with Industry representation and Chairmanship ▪ Discussion papers on Value for Money which have been widely distributed ▪ Introduction of Simple Tenders ▪ Review of Procurement guidelines to be replaced by Procurement Directions which are planned for implementation from 1 March 2006 ▪ Establishment of a complaints mechanism

Regional and Indigenous Economic Development

One of the challenges of economic development is to ensure that Indigenous Territorians and all those living in our regions share in the benefits of economic development. Economic prosperity for Indigenous Territorians is essential for the future of the Territory. One of the best ways to achieve this is through enhanced economic growth in the regions.

Regional Development Plans and other community strategies provide guidance to the Northern Territory, Commonwealth and local governments as to how and where the people of the region would like resources allocated and development efforts targeted. These plans also assist people and organisations in the region to play a positive role in implementing projects.

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Building Stronger Regions (Lead agency DBERD)</i>		
The strategy provides pathways for the achievement of economic and social development outcomes in the regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of regional development plans ▪ Capacity development for Governance ▪ Establishment of Regional Authorities ▪ Formal binding partnership agreements between communities and Government 	<p>Commencing in 2003. Five Regional Development Boards were established in October 2003.</p> <p>The Katherine Regional Development Plan and Anmatjere Regional Development Plan have been endorsed by Government with work on regional development plans for the Barkly and East Arnhem regions well advanced.</p> <p>A suite of indicators is currently being developed by which regional development outcomes can be measured.</p>
<i>Katherine Regional Development Plan (Lead agency DBERD)</i>		
Developed through community consultation this plan states a vision for economic, infrastructure, environmental and community development for the Katherine Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economy ▪ Community and people ▪ Infrastructure ▪ Natural resources 	<p>Katherine Regional Development Plan was launched on 19 September 2003.</p> <p>The plan states a vision for 2003 and beyond.</p> <p>Priority projects are being pursued as part of the budget process.</p>
<i>Alice in Ten</i>		
Comprises 11 projects focused on encouraging the community, business to work together to plan the development of Alice Springs region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antisocial behaviour ▪ Beautifying the town ▪ Improved community and tourism facilitates ▪ Road network project ▪ Red Centre way project ▪ Beautifying the town ▪ Improved community and tourism facilitates 	<p><i>Alice in 10</i> is primarily an initiator of projects which are then implemented by relevant Government or community organisations</p>

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Indigenous Economic Development Strategy (Lead agency DBERD)</i>		
A framework for government and the private sector to work in partnership with Indigenous people to foster long-term economic growth and prosperity through a significant increase in Indigenous wealth, employment and business ownership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategies by industry sector ▪ Leadership ▪ Governance ▪ Communication and promotion ▪ Skills development ▪ Community infrastructure ▪ Research and data collection. 	This strategy documents the outcomes of the Indigenous Economic Forum held in March 2004.
<i>Indigenous Tourism Strategy (Lead agency NTTC)</i>		
Sets out guiding principles for sustainable Indigenous tourism and actions plans for specific projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and information ▪ Building relationships ▪ Equity of access ▪ Capacity to protect and use assets ▪ Recognition of non-traditional business practices ▪ Provision of comprehensive support ▪ Integrating Aboriginal culture into mainstream promotion of the Territory 	The Northern Territory Indigenous Tourism Strategy was released in August 2004.
<i>NT Indigenous Arts Strategy – Building Strong Arts Business (Lead agency DCM)</i>		
Focuses Government programs and services to grow and strengthen the Northern Territory's Indigenous arts sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negotiation and Partnerships ▪ Service Delivery ▪ Showcasing Opportunities 	<p>Commencing in August 2003, an Indigenous Arts Reference Group was established to drive and advise on policy directions.</p> <p>Key initiatives implemented under the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The establishment of an Indigenous Arts Development unit within Arts NT ▪ Increased investment in Indigenous arts activity, showcases, advocacy networks and support ▪ The development of an Export Action Plan ▪ A project to scope and recommend the future development of the Indigenous performing arts sector.

Job Creation and Workforce Development

A crucial ingredient for future economic development will be the availability of skilled employees. Economic growth opens new opportunities, creates jobs and attracts workers and their families.

In many cases, specialist skills are needed for business and industry to make the most of opportunities as they arise. Government will continue to work in partnership with business and industry to adopt strategies to attract and retain skilled employees in developing sectors.

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
Jobs Plan: Building the Northern Territory Workforce – Workforce Employment and Training Strategy (Lead agency DEET)		
<p>A component of the <i>Jobs Plan</i>, this strategy aims is to build partnerships to maximise the opportunity for all Territorians to build a better life through participation in a strong healthy economy and in a dynamic skilled workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better Information and Coordination ▪ Improving Employment Opportunities ▪ Skilling the workforce ▪ Developing small business ▪ Improving indigenous employment ▪ Preparing young Territorians for work ▪ Breaking down barriers to employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the <i>Jobs Plan</i> commenced in 2004 and is ongoing until 2006. ▪ Significant number of projects outlined in <i>Jobs Plan</i> have been completed, including: ▪ RTO professional development program delivered ▪ Workforce NT published ▪ Increase in the number of apprentices/trainees in the Northern Territory ▪ Revision to the government procurement policy regarding the employment of apprentices/trainees under government contract ▪ Maximising the employment of Territorians on major projects ▪ Upskilling existing Territory workers
Jobs Plan: Building the Northern Territory Workforce – Workforce NT (Lead agency DEET)		
<p>A component of the <i>Jobs Plan</i>, <i>Workforce NT</i> is a comprehensive report on the state of employment in the NT. It provides Government, industry and the community with labour market information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Workforce NT</i> provides information about: ▪ Skill shortages ▪ Regional employment ▪ Indigenous employment ▪ Employment for disadvantaged Territorians ▪ Employment growth forecasts ▪ Workforce trends ▪ Macro-economic data impacting on employment ▪ Employment impacts of major projects 	<p>The <i>Workforce NT Report 2004</i> was released in January 2005.</p> <p>Approximately 700 copies have been distributed to Government agencies, industry and community organisations, and individuals.</p> <p>Assists in the formulation of employment and training strategies and programs and informs funding allocations.</p> <p>The <i>NT Occupation Shortage List 2005</i> was released in March 2005.</p>

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
Jobs Plan: Building the Northern Territory Workforce – Jobs NT (Lead agency DEET)		
<p>A component of the <i>Jobs Plan</i>, <i>Jobs NT</i> outlines the link to job opportunities the government has committed to funding over a budget cycle period.</p>	<p>Jobs NT outlines employment related initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jobs created from Northern Territory Government funding ▪ Jobs created from investment funding ▪ Skilling, upskilling and re-skilling of the Territory workforce ▪ Northern Territory Government funded ongoing programs ▪ Northern Territory Government funded new programs 	<p>\$75M towards the recruitment and training of additional police officers</p> <p>Territorians employed on major projects including the Darwin Waterfront Redevelopment and the expansion of Alcan in Gove</p> <p>Wickham Point LNG plant nearing completion</p> <p>Training for 10 000 apprentices/trainees on target</p> <p>A comprehensive school to work strategy under development</p> <p>Funding for prevocational training to improve access to apprenticeships</p> <p>Three rounds of employer incentives allocated to skill shortage areas, small business and local/community councils</p> <p>200 additional public sector traineeships</p> <p>Employee incentives for first time apprentices/trainees</p>
Business and Skilled Migration Strategy (Lead agency DBERD)		
<p>As component of the Population Strategy, this strategy is focused on increasing the availability of skilled workers for regional employers and leading businesses opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication and Promotion ▪ Development and Maintenance of Strategic Partnerships and ▪ Linkages ▪ Participation in Regional Migration Programs ▪ Influencing National Migration Policy Development 	<p>Implementation of the Business and Skilled Migration strategy began in February 2005. The strategy runs until 2009.</p>
Priority Education (Lead agency DEET)		
<p>Aimed at improving secondary education and building better schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better teaching and learning ▪ Increased and improved secondary education provision ▪ Stronger school communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commenced in February 2005 – this is a four year strategy. ▪ Initiatives under five key areas have been or are being implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students and Learning ▪ Supporting the Territory's Teachers ▪ Indigenous Education ▪ Distance Education ▪ Building Stronger School Communities

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy (Lead agency OCPE)</i>		
To address the critical under-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Northern Territory Public Sector workforce by providing a range of appropriate recruitment, career development and retention initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recruited into the public sector ▪ Adequate representation of Indigenous people at all levels within the Northern Territory Public Sector to enable effective contribution to policy and decision making affecting Indigenous people; ▪ Increased cultural diversity throughout the Northern Territory Public Sector. 	Implementation of the strategy commenced in 2002. The strategy runs until 2006.
<i>CDU/Northern Territory Government Partnership Agreement (Lead agency DCM/CDU)</i>		
Aims to encourage a mutually productive and cooperative relationship between the Northern Territory Government and the Charles Darwin University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growing resident capacity in the Northern Territory ▪ Meeting Government needs ▪ Reorganising the University to better meet Territory needs ▪ Particular projects enabling indigenous social and economic development 	<p>The Agreement was signed on 27 June 2004 and is initially for a period of three years, with the option of extending for further periods as agreed between the parties.</p> <p>A review of the operation of the agreement will be undertaken, to commence six months prior to the end of the first three-year term.</p>
<i>Willing and Able Strategy (Lead agency OCPE)</i>		
The Strategy sets out the issues that all NTPS agencies will need to consider in relation to the employment of people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment processes. ▪ Access to entry level employment and training positions ▪ Access to facilities and infrastructure, ▪ Raise awareness and understanding of disability issues ▪ Representation of people with disabilities at all levels of the NTPS. ▪ Employees with disabilities have input to the formulation of policies. 	Implementation of the strategy commenced in 2003. The strategy is ongoing.
<i>Remote Workforce Development Strategy (Lead agency OCPE)</i>		
Outlines the Government's commitment to address achieve equitable workforce development outcomes for remote NTG employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver training using IT ▪ Effective central services ▪ Tailor training and development opportunities ▪ Resource to increase access to workforce development opportunities 	Implementation of the strategy commenced in 2003. The strategy runs until 2006.

Infrastructure Development

Appropriate infrastructure networks are important because of the wide scattering of Territory population centres. Access to efficient and effective transport, communications, power and water are essential to quality of life and increasing productivity capacity.

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
<i>Tourism Infrastructure – Building strategic infrastructure to underpin investment in Territory tourism (Lead agency NTTC)</i>		
Outlines the Government's strategic framework for growing the tourism industry and the provision of tourism infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government investment in tourism infrastructure required to make Northern Territory destinations more accessible and attractive to visitors; ▪ Leveraging off the Government's investment to attract private sector investment in the tourism industry; and ▪ Increasing national and international marketing efforts to build the Northern Territory tourism brand. 	<p>The strategy was published in May 2005.</p> <p>Committed to Darwin Convention and Exhibition Centre and Darwin Cruise Terminal.</p> <p>Started construction of Mereenie Loop Road and committed to Litchfield Loop Road.</p>
<i>NT Aviation Strategy (Lead agency NTTC)</i>		
Provides a framework for the development of the aviation industry in the Northern Territory with the aim of maximising tourism and trade opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of air services ▪ Development of general and regional aviation services ▪ Expand and support international air access to Darwin International Airport ▪ Develop international air access to Central Australia ▪ Expand and support domestic air access to Central Australia and other key destinations in the Northern Territory ▪ Promote Darwin as an alternative air transport hub in the region and strengthen key relationships with airlines ▪ Facilitate the growth of airfreight and ground support development for air services 	<p>Implementation of the plan commenced in 2004. The plan runs until 2006.</p>
<i>Territory Partnerships - A Policy Framework for Public Private Partnerships in the NT (Lead Agency DCM)</i>		
A policy framework for public and private sector partnerships whereby private investment may be integrated into the supply and/or management of public infrastructure and achievement of service outputs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Private Partnerships ▪ Attracting private sector investment and resources ▪ Supply/management of public infrastructure ▪ Achievement of service outputs 	<p>Implementation of the Plan commenced in 2004 and is ongoing.</p>

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
NT Remote Area Communications Strategy (Lead agency DCIS)		
Focuses on delivering better communication facilities to remote communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equitable access to telecommunications infrastructure ▪ Fostering greater demand for telecommunication services in remote areas ▪ Encouraging partnerships to deliver telecommunications services ▪ Developing mechanisms to increase efficiencies and provide cheaper alternatives. ▪ Development of appropriate delivery models. 	Implementation of the Plan commenced in 2003. The Plan runs until 2008.
Draft NT Transport Plan (Lead agency DPI)		
Provides the framework for developing an integrated, accessible and effective transport system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport framework ▪ Inter-modal links ▪ Defence support ▪ Air services ▪ Commercial and public transport ▪ Upgrade roads ▪ Transport safety 	<p>The draft <i>Transport Plan</i> was developed to stimulate thought and discussion, and to encourage community and industry feedback.</p> <p>It will inform the development of the NT Road Network Strategy and other specific transport sector plans.</p>

Other Policies and Strategies

Complex inter-linkages exist between economic outcomes and general social issues. Many strategies that are primarily aimed at improved social outcomes will also have economic development outcomes.

For example, high crime rates decrease private sector investment, especially by small businesses. Therefore, effective policing and crime prevention will have beneficial economic spin-offs.

Additionally, high migratory turnover through the Territory population contributes significantly to skills shortages and reduced labour productivity. Population Policy and home ownership initiatives are intended in part to slow the rate of migratory turnover through the Territory.

Overview	Key elements	Implementation status & highlights
Building Our Population (Lead agency DCM)		
A comprehensive and integrated approach to supporting the growth and development of the Northern Territory population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attracting new population ▪ Retaining existing population ▪ Upskilling the existing population 	Implementation of the population attraction element of the strategy began in February 2005. The population retention elements have been incorporated in policy (eg. increases to home ownership incentive schemes) and further initiatives are expected in 2006. The Upskilling element is incorporated in the <i>Jobs NT</i> policy and will be further expanded in 2007. The Population Policy is on-going.
Community Engagement – Working together for a Better Territory (Lead agency – DCM)		
Provides a framework for Government interaction with the public, community groups and organisations, researchers, business and industry in order to make decisions that are in the best interests of the Territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating more opportunities for active participation by Territorians to assist Government in making better decisions. ▪ Providing Territorians with accurate information about Government policies and programs. 	The framework commenced in 2003 and is ongoing. Key implementation highlights include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduced Community Cabinets. ▪ Appointed Regional Development Boards under the Building Stronger Regions-Stronger Futures Strategy. ▪ Supported business, community, and industry partnership agreements. ▪ Introduced Freedom of Information legislation. ▪ Revitalised the debate about Statehood, which entails an inclusive development process.

Agenda for Action (Lead agency DCM)		
A framework to establish a whole of government approach to Indigenous affairs in the Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing governance and community capacity ▪ Giving Indigenous kids a good start in life ▪ Strengthening Indigenous communities-infrastructure, housing and essential services ▪ Indigenous economic development - local jobs for local people ▪ Safer communities for Indigenous Territorians 	<p>The Chief Executives' Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs was established in September 2004 to ensure major Northern Territory Government departments collaborate and provide strategic advice on Indigenous affairs to Cabinet.</p> <p>The Agenda for Action was released in 2005.</p>
Building Healthier Communities – Framework for Health and Community Services (Lead agency DHCS)		
Government's broad platform for continuing reform and focus in the health and community services sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Giving kids a good start in life ▪ Strengthening families and communities ▪ Getting serious about Aboriginal health ▪ Creating better pathways to health services ▪ Filling service gaps ▪ Tackling substance abuse ▪ Building quality health and community services ▪ Creating better ways of working together ▪ Valuing and supporting our workforce ▪ Creating a health information network 	Implementation of the Plan commenced in 2004. The Plan runs until 2009.
Building Safer Communities (Lead agency - DOJ)		
Describes the Government's vision for action across the Territory, to build communities in which all Territorians enjoy safety and security, and the benefits of an effective legal and justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting children and young people ▪ Protecting home and business - preventing property crime ▪ Preventing violence - protecting Territorians ▪ Two way justice - engaging Aboriginal culture ▪ Tackling substance abuse ▪ Targeting punishment and preventing (re)offending 	Implementation of the Plan commenced in 2004. The Plan runs until 2009.
Home Ownership Incentives – Increasing home ownership in the Northern Territory (Lead agency NTT)		
Increases to a number of home ownership incentive schemes to assist local residential construction, and provide incentives to assist with settlement in the Territory.	Providing financial assistance through various lending assistance schemes, stamp duty reductions and direct grant assistance to home buyers	Recent changes to the Homenorth scheme and stamp duty home ownership concessions were implemented as part of the 2005-06 Budget and after the 2005 election.