

Listening to Business

The Martin Government consults with business and the community in a number of ways.

Since it was elected, the Government has used community Cabinet meetings as an effective mechanism for meeting Territorians and discussing the issues that are important, such as jobs, health, education and safer communities. Community Cabinets have been conducted across the Territory and more are planned for 2004-05.

The Business Round Table is a consultative forum, chaired by the Chief Minister, which enables views and opinions to be exchanged between Government, industry and business representatives, meeting face to face to constructively discuss business development issues.

Business representatives are encouraged to register their interest in participating in the Business Round Table online www.businessroundtable.nt.gov.au or free call 1800 193 111.

The Business Round Table encourages open and wide-ranging discussion and complements existing mechanisms available for business and industry to engage in dialogue with Government. It meets at least ten times a year, across Territory centres, with local business and industry representatives invited to participate. Key issues are followed up, with feedback provided on the Business Round Table website.

As part of the development of the 2004-05 Budget, the Treasurer sought the views from industry representatives on revenue measures that contributed to the development of the Budget. The Treasurer and Treasury will hold regular consultation forums during the year.

The Territory Taxation Administration Liaison Committee was established in April 2004 and comprises representatives of professional associations, representing Territory taxation advisers and businesses, and senior officers from the Territory taxes office (Territory Revenue Management). The committee focuses on technical rather than policy issues, and the forum provides a valuable opportunity to exchange information between Territory Revenue Management and tax practitioners.

The Government Procurement Council was formed in 2003 following public calls for nominations. Its membership comprises six private sector business people and two public sector chief executives. The council provides advice to the Minister for Procurement on procurement policy and implementation issues.

Motor Vehicle Transactions Online

Government is currently consulting with the Motor Trades Association to develop an electronic system that will eliminate the need for existing paper-based processes involved in the sale of vehicles. The electronic system will streamline new registrations, registration transfers and disposal notice processes as well as the payment of relevant fees and stamp duty.

The consultation process allows industry to raise concerns and propose workable solutions to identified issues prior to implementation. The anticipated outcome is a more efficient and user friendly system that benefits both industry and Government.

