

Industry

Business Development Programs

Government continues its programs to assist local business to expand and become more competitive by providing information through UpSkills workshops, client-manager-business consultations, Business Growth, October Business Month, Territory Women in Business, Youth Desk and referrals to the Business Enterprise Centre.

In 2005-06, \$0.5 million is allocated to assist businesses to be competitive and expand by facilitating workshops and mentoring sessions (UpSkills) and business planning sessions (Business Growth Program).

The Government is working with local industry to assist firms to successfully compete for contracts in the oil, gas and defence sectors.

Additional business development programs will be implemented to assist in the establishment of Indigenous enterprises, support for the formation of partnerships and joint ventures between Indigenous organisations and other corporate entities, and the provision of business support services.

Alcan Refinery Expansion

Government staff in Gove are helping Indigenous people take advantage of business opportunities arising from the major Alcan refinery expansion.

A business plan has been developed for a low-impact eco-tourism venture, and negotiations are also under way to establish a fishing tour operator business.

Growing Business Internationally

The Government is continuing to provide strong support for Territory business and industry to grow internationally. In 2005-06, priorities are:

- identifying opportunities available through the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development and other post-Indian Ocean tsunami assistance programs;
- supporting the continued development of Study North Australia to market and promote the Territory's world-class educational facilities;
- supporting the International Project Network, a collaborative effort to identify and coordinate approaches to mounting bids for international projects;
- continuing to implement the Territory's International Trade Strategy; and
- opening new opportunities in China in conjunction with the Territory's China partners, Anhui Province and Meizhou City.

The 2005-06 Budget sets aside key priority allocations for:

- the Trade Support Scheme – \$500 000;
- overseas office representation in Jakarta, Manila and Dili – \$500 000; and
- Indonesian Customs Pre-Inspection Facility development, a unique service for exporters using the Port of Darwin for goods bound for Eastern Indonesia – \$100 000.

Business and Skilled Migration

The Northern Territory's *Business and Skilled Migration Strategy* was launched in February 2005. The five-year strategy sets the direction for how skilled migrants can be attracted to live and work in the Northern Territory and add to the population and skills base. Implementation of the strategy will focus on:

- raising the awareness of Territory employers and businesses of the benefits of overseas business and skilled migration;
- partnering with Territory ethnic groups and the business community to maximise migration outcomes through their international networks;



West Arnhem

A small Indigenous business has been awarded a contract to revegetate different sites around the ERA mine at Jabiru. Indigenous Business and Industry Services is supporting the business with advice and access to workshops.

Support

- promoting the Territory to potential migrants as a place to live, work and establish businesses; and
- working with the Australian Government on developing migration solutions to meet Territory employer and business needs.

The Government has increased funding for the implementation of the strategy, from \$345 000 to \$470 000 in 2004-05, and annual funding of \$595 000 from 2005-06.

Building the Territory's Resource Base

The Northern Territory Government's exploration investment attraction initiative *Building the Territory's Resource Base* is a four-year \$15.2 million program aimed at maximising investment in, and the effectiveness of, mineral and petroleum exploration in the Northern Territory. Its four elements are:

1. collecting high-quality pre-competitive geoscientific data and providing this data to the mining and petroleum sectors – \$12.6 million;
2. enhanced capability to process and manage exploration and mining tenure – \$1 million;
3. commitment to working with the mining industry and Indigenous organisations to encourage partnerships and Indigenous involvement in mining – \$1.2 million; and
4. promoting the Territory as an attractive exploration investment destination – \$0.4 million.

Indigenous Economic Development

The Territory Government is committed to Indigenous economic development for the benefit of Territorians, and has established an Indigenous Economic Development Taskforce to drive its strategies and increase benefits to Territory businesses and Territorians. Taskforce members come from across Australia and have a range of backgrounds and expertise.

To achieve this outcome, the taskforce has examined opportunities for job creation and business start up or expansion in 13 key industry sectors, including:

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| • Aquaculture and Fisheries | • Knowledge and Culture |
| • Arts | • Mining and Production |
| • Community Services | • Natural Resource Management |
| • Construction | • Pastoral |
| • Forestry and Agribusiness | • Retail and Services |
| • Government | • Tourism |
| • Horticulture | |

The newly established Indigenous Business and Industry Services group has been responsible for a number of successful initiatives including planning workshops, scoping studies and support and advice to Indigenous business to foster opportunities for Indigenous business operators and increase the number of Indigenous people in employment and training programs in the Territory.

More information is available from the following websites:

- www.dbird.nt.gov.au
- www.tbc.nt.gov.au
- www.theterritory.com.au
- www.australiasiangateway.com.au
- www.migration.nt.gov.au



Industry Support

Supporting Primary Producers

The Territory's agribusiness sector boasts strong growth and provides excellent opportunities for development in agriculture, horticulture, livestock, wild seafood, aquaculture, irrigated crops, tropical fruits and Asian vegetables. In 2005-06, funding has been allocated to a range of initiatives to support primary producers, including:

- stamp duty exemption for family farms to be extended to all conveyances of primary production land between family members;
- continued upgrading of beef roads to improve access to pastoral properties for Ringwood Road, Plenty Highway, Sandover Highway, Dorisvale Road, Buntine Highway, Maryvale Road and Point Stuart Road (\$4.7 million);
- maintaining market access for Territory produce to a range of programs including grower accreditation and certification of produce (\$0.75 million);
- research, development and extension of crop pest management systems for Territory plant industries (\$1.22 million);
- continuing development of the Horticulture Information Service to improve information management and delivery to industry, government and other clients (\$0.21 million);
- research and development of the aquaculture industry, including the production of barramundi fingerlings, the creation of a trepang hatchery and support to the emerging mud crab aquaculture industry (\$1.38 million);
- monitoring programs to guard against exotic pests imported to Territory waters (\$0.41 million);
- the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories providing diagnostic services to livestock industries in the Territory (\$1.34 million);
- developing mango industry strategies, including harvest labour, code of practice, market quality monitoring and industry communications, and continued participation in the national mango project to develop new varieties and production practices for future market growth (\$0.25 million);
- developing the horticultural industry, including citrus, nursery and cut flower industries, tropical fruit sectors, improving horticulture information services, monitoring of banana industry varieties for resistance to Panama disease, assessment of the suitability of cocoa production and continued research into bamboo and various ginger varieties (\$0.52 million);
- mixed farming research facilities at the Douglas Daly Research Farm (\$1 million);
- animal health services to ensure market access of livestock to all available domestic and export outlets (\$0.95 million);
- streamlined land clearing control and assessment processes to implement the Native Vegetation Control Plan under the *Planning Act* to provide transparency in decision making and a clear set of guidelines and processes on clearing activities which will enable businesses to make firm business decisions (\$0.25 million);
- information on soil, vegetation and land capability to land-holders, communities, developers and industry, to reduce risks and achieve sustainable development of land for primary production and other purposes (\$0.8 million); and
- information on the ground water resources that sustain the horticultural, pastoral and mining industries across the Northern Territory (\$1.2 million).

