

***MEDIA RELEASE*** - 14 February 2008

## ***DARWIN READY TO HOST THE WORLD***

Opening on schedule in June 2008 and ready to host the world, the spectacular Darwin Convention Centre is the architectural showpiece of the AUD1billion Darwin Waterfront redevelopment.

Northern Territory Chief Minister, Mr Paul Henderson said the development of the Darwin Waterfront precinct and the new Darwin Convention Centre displayed the confidence and commitment his government had in positioning Australia's tropical harbour city as an exciting and attractive destination for convention delegates.

A regional centre for energy, minerals, prosperous fishing, livestock and tourism industries, it is Darwin City's spirited pursuit of a dynamic future that is evident everywhere.

The Centre's General Manager, Ms Malu Barrios said it is this thriving business culture and 'people climate' that is attracting some of Australia's most prestigious events to Darwin.

"In partnership with the Northern Territory Convention Bureau, over 35 national, international and regional events have been confirmed to be held at the Darwin Convention Centre and that means over 20,000 additional visitors and their families will converge on the region alone," added Ms Barrios.

One of the events to choose Darwin is the National Insurance Brokers Association (NIBA) who will hold their annual conference in September 2008. NIBA Chief Executive, Mr Noel Pettersen recognised that their 26<sup>th</sup> convention needed a new and very different destination to attract their 600 plus members to attend.

"Darwin is Australia's best kept secret.....it's an exciting city in a unique part of the country and is now easier and cheaper to get to than ever before with a wide range of accommodation to suit. And to top it off there will soon be a world-class convention facility," added Mr Pettersen.

But it is the Darwin Convention Centre's rapidly expanding team that is excited about getting ready to host the world. The whole team will undergo extensive training to ensure every guest experiences quality service excellence from start to finish.

"Our team's culture is all about listening to the client's needs and being one step ahead of them throughout the whole planning and organisation process," said Ms Barrios.

"But our point of difference is Darwin's relaxed tropical atmosphere that will make every delegate feel genuinely welcome to this unique part of the world."

A selection of conventions to be held at the Darwin Convention Centre include:

- 46th International Association of Women Police Training Conference, September 2008, 500 delegates
- 14<sup>th</sup> Australasian Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry Conference, September 2008, 500 delegates
- Australian Credit Union & Mutual Building Society Convention, October 2008, 600 delegates
- Australian General Practice Network Forum, October 2008, 1,000 delegates
- Perinatal Society of Australia & New Zealand 13th Annual Congress, April 2009, 600 delegates
- Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) Symposium, April 2009, 650 delegates
- Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference 2009, May 2009, 800 delegates
- Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Conference and Exhibition, May/June 2009, 1,300 delegates
- Australian Council for Educational Leaders Conference, September 2009, 750 delegates
- 44th Australian Psychology Society Annual Conference, September 2009, 750 delegates
- Australasian College of Dermatologists 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting, May 2010, 700 delegates
- Australian Pipeline Industry Association Conference, September 2010, 300 delegates
- Count Financial Ltd 26th Annual Financial Planning Conference, April 2011, 1,500 delegates

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