

# DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE "GEARS UP" FOR BUSINESS BIG AND SMALL

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While Darwin Convention Centre has achieved an outstanding reputation as a leading venue for national and international conventions, it is fast building recognition for its support for the growth of the region and local businesses.

"With Darwin being the main economic driver of the Territory, the Centre takes every opportunity to respond to the needs of local companies and businesses in supporting their endeavours," said Darwin Convention Centre General Manager Malu Barrios.

An example of such support was hosting the Northern Territory Government's recent launch of its "Gearing Up Local Business for Major Projects Expo" at the Centre. The Expo allows the Territory's small and medium sized businesses to gain invaluable access to companies involved in the major development projects under way including INPEX, ShoreASCO, Monadelphous, Sitzler Baulderstone, Laing O'Rourke and JKC.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson used the occasion, attended by more than 350 Territory business people, to emphasise his objective of ensuring that local businesses are best placed to take advantage of the many benefits of the Territory's significant economic growth, as reflected in recent Sensis data showing business confidence in the Territory rising more than anywhere else in Australia.

The Northern Territory is arguably the outstanding success of the Australian economy, with the well-credentialed Access Economics recently further upgrading its positive forecasts of economic growth for the Territory to 4.4% over five years.

While the "Gearing up" Expo was the most recent of such events, the Centre has so far this year provided the venue for events including the Travel Expo, Darwin Life and Home Expo and the NT Big Boys Toys, with the Aboriginal Art Fair and the ever popular Boat Show to be held later in the year.

"The fact that we are working together with organisers to grow these events reflects our commitment to business at all levels in Darwin.

"It is our investment in Darwin's economic future," said Mrs Barrios.

## For further media information or comment, please contact:

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