Chief Minister Paul Henderson today officially opened the new Cruise Passenger Terminal at Fort Hill Wharf, saying it was a tremendous new asset for Darwin and the Territory’s tourism industry.

Speaking at the new Terminal which was today accommodating passengers from the Diamond Princess, Mr Henderson said Tourism NT estimated the cruise industry was worth $27 million per year to the Territory’s economy.

“This week is a great example of the value of the cruise ship industry, with the Diamond Princess carrying more than 2,200 passengers and 1,000 crew, and its sister ship, the Sun Princess, arriving tomorrow,” Mr Henderson said.

“It’s important we support the cruise ship and wider tourism industries, which create economic activity and employment in the Territory.

“The new Cruise Passenger Terminal will help promote Darwin as a cruise destination and position the city as Australia’s Asian gateway – leading to further development of our tourism industry.”

Tourism Minister Kon Vatskalis said the Northern Territory Government had committed $5 million to the construction of the terminal.

“The Terminal is designed for further expansion and with the support of the Government, I believe we will see expansion of our cruise and wider tourism industries,” Mr Vatskalis said.

The terminal includes:

- A flexible large enclosed air-conditioned area which can be used for a variety of purposes including customs, quarantine, baggage handling and transit hall;
- A modern covered walkway which links the Terminal to the ship’s berth;
- Car park area with covered pick up area for passengers and crew;
- Taxi and bus parking areas; and
- Improved lighting, landscaping, furniture and public amenities.

The Terminal will be operated by Darwin Port Corporation.

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