Australia in the Asian Century White Paper highlights exciting opportunities for Darwin and the Territory

Shadow Minister for Asian Relations and Trade Kon Vatskalis welcomed the release of the *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper.

Mr Vatskalis said this important paper highlights the important role Darwin will play in the future of Australian and Asian relations and opportunities.

“"We have long known the strategic importance of Darwin and the Territory to our future opportunities that will come from economic growth in the Asian region,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“That is why the Labor Government had always worked hard to build strong relations with our Asian neighbours.

“In recent years we have delivered targeted strategies to maximise investment opportunities with our neighbours to the North.

“Oil and gas, resources, live cattle, education and training, and health had been some of the areas we had done a great deal of work in.

“We signed a formal agreement with the Sangla hospital in Bali for the training of medical staff and in the past year a number of nurses and doctors have been trained at RDH.

“We intended to further enhance our relationship with Indonesia through education exchanges.

“We know there are terrific tourism opportunities with our Asian neighbours and Darwin Airport is now an international hub.

“And we have continued important initiatives like the Arafura Games and continued strong diplomatic ties with Asian countries so those strong working relationships continue.

“I urge the CLP Government to look into this White Paper carefully so no opportunity is missed.

“All key industry stakeholders should be involved to ensure key infrastructure investment continues so that the Territory can meet the opportunities that the Asian Century will deliver.”

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