DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE: ONE YEAR ON

It was one year ago this month that work started on the Darwin Convention Centre and construction of the building is now nearing the halfway mark.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said significant construction progress has been made in the past 12 months with the world-class convention centre gradually taking shape.

“It has been one year since construction of the convention centre started in March 2006 and the impressive size of the building is now clearly visible,” Ms Martin said.

“Construction so far has included completion of the foundation pad, piling, concrete pours for the basement, ground floor and first floor slabs, the installation of preformed concrete walls and structural steel and construction of the office spaces and lift chambers.

“Local companies have been awarded contracts valued at more than $100 million so far which is equivalent to more than 90% of expenditure and work opportunities for more than 1100 people have been created.

“In the coming weeks the second floor concrete slab will be laid followed by placement of large roof trusses and roof sheeting with the roof over the plenary hall end of the building expected to be complete in a few months’ time.

“Construction of the Darwin Convention Centre is on track for the grand opening in 2008 with the operator taking bookings from 1 July next year.

“Several bookings have already been confirmed for the convention centre with 30 more currently under negotiation with the potential to inject more than $20 million into the Territory economy.

“Work on the rest of the Waterfront is progressing well – the sea wall is nearly complete, wave lagoon excavations are complete and ready for the concrete pour this dry season and work on the hotels and the Wharf One residential development will commence in the coming months,” Ms Martin said.

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Some interesting statistics:

**Darwin Convention Centre:**
- Equivalent height in storeys: 6
- Square metres of building footprint: 9,600
- Square metres of exhibition hall floor space: 4,020
- Square metres of total floor space: 22,900
- Tonnes of structural steel used: 1,300
- Cubic metres of concrete: 12,000
- Number of bricks: 62,000
- Number of convention centre piles: 400

**Sea wall:**
- Width in metres at its base: 70
- Equivalent height in storeys (from the sea bed): 5
- Length in metres: 650
- Cubic metres of landfill: 350,000
- Tonnes of armour rock: 130,000

**Wave lagoon:**
- Size of wave lagoon in square metres: 4,000
- Cubic metres of soil excavated: 15,000
- Number of wave lagoon piles: 238
- Cubic metres of reinforced concrete: 3,000

- Cubic metres of marine mud dredged: 690,000