NT TEAM HAS SAY ON NATIONAL MANUFACTURING PLAN

The Territory Government will lead a delegation to Melbourne tomorrow to put forward the Territory’s case in the development of a national manufacturing study, Business Minister Paul Henderson said.

The delegation is participating in the National Manufacturing Summit in Melbourne from 12 to 13 December.

“The Territory Government launched its five-year Manufacturing Strategy, Making it in the Territory, in 2004 and since the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the Territory’s Gross State Product has grown from 3.6 per cent to 7.5 per cent,” Mr Henderson said.

“The Territory’s manufacturing sector has a turnover of about $1.1 billion and employs more than 2800 Territorians, and there is still more to do.

“This Summit is the first step toward the development of a nation-wide plan to grow Australia’s manufacturing industry agreed to at a meeting of Ministers responsible for manufacturing in July.

“Australia’s manufacturing industry is at a crossroad, with globalisation and the strengthening of world economies, and it is timely to consider the issues and challenges ahead to see Australia build and strengthen its manufacturing sectors.”

The Summit will provide extensive consultation with industry and government representatives about the issues affecting each jurisdiction’s manufacturing sector, and this will feed into the development of a national plan for the future.

“It is important Territory-specific issues are included in the development of a national plan,” said Mr Henderson.

“The Territory delegation will highlight the need to maximise opportunities in emerging sectors and technologies, such as the Defence support sector, harness opportunities for value-adding in mineral and oil production, and measures to address the skills shortage.”

Participants in the Territory’s delegation have been drawn from the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (DBERD), Chamber of Commerce NT, NT Manufacturers Council, Transport Engineering Automotive Training Advisory Council, Unions NT and the NT Industry Capability Network.

The development of the national manufacturing study will be overseen by Federal, State and Territory governments is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

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