Education Minister Paul Henderson has this morning launched National Science Week in the Northern Territory, saying science will have a central role in the Territory’s future job opportunities.

“In years to come the Territory’s key and emerging industries such as mining, oil and gas, Defence and environmental management will be dependant on technology not yet thought of – technology based on science,” Mr Henderson said.

“Recognising the value now of science in our schools and in our day to day lives will help ensure future generations of Territorians will have the skills required, rather than local jobs going to interstate workers.”

Mr Henderson said the Government was also thinking ‘outside the square’ in supporting science and knowledge based industries.

“From Desert and Tropical Knowledge to the recent commitment of $2.5 million over five years to help establish a Traditional Knowledge Institute at Charles Darwin University, the Government is committed to supporting the development of new industries that will deliver jobs for Territorians in the long-term,” said Mr Henderson.

“The Government was also pleased to inject $6.63 million toward the construction of a state of the art $8.1 million science and home economics building at Darwin High School, which was officially opened in June.”

Mr Henderson also congratulated Maningrida teacher Mason Scholes on his nomination for the Australian Museum’s 2007 Eureka Prize for excellence in science teaching.

“One of only three teachers across Australia to be nominated for the prize, Marcus is a great role model for the practical application of science, and I wish him well in the competition.”

National Science Week runs from 18 to 26 August.