Investigating Indigenous participation in the workforce

As part of the Territory Government’s ongoing efforts to improve indigenous employment and participation, the Minister for Business and Regional Development, Kon Vatskalis, will today travel to Port Hedland in Western Australia to meet with representatives of BHP Billiton and two successful Indigenous businesses.

The Minister will meet with both Ngarda Civil and Mining and Pilbara Logistics.

Ngarda Civil and Mining is one of Australia’s most successful Indigenous businesses, with Indigenous people making up more than 85% of its workforce. It specialises in civil construction, transport, stevedoring and ship loading, rail and environmental services.

Pilbara Logistics is a smaller Indigenous company specialising in machinery hire and has succeeded in employing a high percentage of Indigenous employees.

“The Territory Government is committed to promoting full Indigenous participation in our workforce, particularly in regional areas,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Every time I travel interstate, I look to take the opportunity to visit those businesses that are breaking new ground in the employment of Indigenous people.

“There are tremendous success stories around this country, including the NT, where Indigenous people are at the forefront of economic activity.

“Each and every one provides further proof of the important contribution that Indigenous people can make in the development of Australia.

“I am most grateful to BHP Billiton for hosting my visit and providing the introductions to these firms. It serves to demonstrate just how important our leading minerals companies see the challenge of full participation of Indigenous people in their industry.”

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