CONVENTION CENTRE WILL DELIVER FOR DARWIN

More than 11,000 delegates will descend on Darwin in the next financial year to attend a conference at the new $115 million Convention Centre, and Chief Minister Paul Henderson wants Territorians to celebrate.

Mr Henderson said the Government was hosting a five-day community celebration next week to mark the Convention Centre’s official opening.

“Twenty-three conventions and exhibitions have already been booked at the Centre for its first year of business, marking the start of a new era in Darwin’s economy,” Mr Henderson said.

“The Convention Centre is a new jewel in Darwin’s crown, and the 11,000 delegates and their partners and families who will come with them are just the start of what will be an important driver of opportunities for small business and the tourism industry.

“The new Convention Centre is the result of the hard work of hundreds of Territorians.

“During construction, 120 jobs were created on site and about 95% of contracts, or $90 million of work, went to local companies – and another 180 jobs will be created at the Centre during the next four years.

“Of course, the Convention Centre would never have happened if the CLP Opposition Leader Terry Mills had got his way.

“In his first attempt as the leader of the CLP Opposition he called for the project to be scrapped:

“I do not want to see a project that is focused on a residential and convention centre.” Terry Mills, NT News 3.12.04

“Under my Government, the Centre was completed on budget and ahead of schedule – and I want the Darwin community to celebrate.

“We are hosting a five-day community celebration, starting with the official opening of the Centre next Wednesday 18 June, and including school tours, jet ski and water ski displays, fireworks, markets and performances by community groups.

“The new Darwin Convention Centre will deliver for Territory families for decades and I encourage all Territorians to come down and celebrate its opening.”

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