10 February 2011

Territory explores trade links with the Philippines

The Northern Territory Government will seek new trade opportunities for local Northern Territory businesses in Manila this week.

The Minister for Asian Relations and Trade, Rob Knight will hold a series of meetings as part of a trade mission of Territory business, education and community representatives to the region.

“The Henderson Government is exploring ways to tap into the trade potential in the Philippines,” Minister Knight said.

“The Philippines has been identified as a potential emerging trade partner for the Northern Territory under the Territory Government’s Growing International Trade strategy – a direct flight from Darwin to Manila is important step to increasing trade between the regions.

“As part of the trip to mark the inaugural Jetstar Darwin to Manila flight, this week we will be exploring potential new trade and investment opportunities and letting the Philippines know we’re open for business.”

Minister Knight’s trade mission includes representatives from the International Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce NT, Charles Darwin University, Territory Government agencies and Darwin’s Filipino community to look for new avenues for business with the Philippines.
“The Territory and the Philippines already have a history of trade; last year the Territory exported $7.7 million worth of goods to the Philippines - an increase of 12.8 per cent from the previous year. In the year to November 2010 saw live cattle exports from the Territory to the Philippines increase by 14.85 percent to $8.2 million,” Minister Knight said.

“During this trade mission we will be targeting expected trade areas of tourism and education – the trip will help link Territory businesses and industries up with key potential traders and investors in Manila.

“On top of this, more than 3,000 Filipinos visit the Northern Territory each year and the new direct service will see these figures grow - providing a valuable tourism boost to Territory businesses.”

As part of the trade mission, Minister Knight will hold a series of meetings with:

- Philippines Department of Trade and Industry;
- Philippines Department of Tourism;
- Australia New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines;
- Philippines-Australia Business Council;
- Asian Development Bank;
- Philippines Sports Commission; and
- Prospective students and alumni of Charles Darwin University.

**Media contact: Claire March 0403 937 849**