Chief Minister, Adam Giles, said public submissions open Friday for a retail and entertainment complex proposed for Palmerston that will be the biggest in the Territory.

The applicant has applied to build on a 15-hectare site off the Stuart Highway, Mr Giles said.

“The proposed investment is evidence that business recognises the Territory is on a huge growth path and doing business here will be enormously rewarding as the Northern Australian economy heats up.”

The Gateway centre, proposed by the Coombes Property Group, is bigger than Casuarina Square. If the application is successful the total investment will be $300 million over all the stages, with hundreds of jobs in construction and in the complex.

“As Northern Australia grows as a diversified economy, there will be a continued influx of workers requiring an expansion of services for workers and their families.

“To meet this demand the Territory Government has been identifying land for residential development and industrial and commercial facilities. At the same time we are reducing red tape so that applications go through a fast, clearcut, quality process.

“The Territory is gearing up to lift Northern Australian growth, our logistics infrastructure is achieving international benchmark standards with expansion and improvements which are underway in our ports and airports.

“We have a highly skilled, multicultural, multilingual and Australia’s youngest average age workforce and we are speeding up land release so rental and home ownership are affordable.

“Adding to the rewards of doing business here is the fact we have no land tax and we have the lowest payroll tax regime within any Australian jurisdiction.”

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