$106 MILLION TO BUILD THE TERRITORY WORKFORCE

8 May 2013

The Country Liberals Government will commit more than $106 million to support business and workforce development in Budget 2013.

Minister for Business David Tollner said this was more than $6 million extra than the 2012-13 budget, and a greater commitment to the Territory’s business industry than provided by Delia Lawrie’s former Labor Government.

“We are committed to supporting Territorians to train up and benefit from our growing economy,” Mr Tollner said. “We want to train Territorians for Territory jobs and we recognise the unique opportunities that the northern part of Australia has to offer.”

The “Territory Business Growth” suite of programs will receive $1 million in this year’s budget, an extra $210,000, which helps businesses to build on their sustainability, profitability and capability.

“If we can help businesses take a look at their overall operating environment, as well as recognise their strengths and weaknesses and help them to act on opportunities, then that’s a win for the Territory,” Mr Tollner said.

“Improving the individual performance of businesses is important in advancing regional economic development, employment and wealth creation capabilities.”

Young business owner Brad Claydon, 36, of Invision Design and Joinery which employs seven staff, has been involved in the business growth program for a number of years and said the program helped him get off the tools and address the management and financial side of the business.

“It’s really opened my eyes,” Mr Claydon said. “I’ve gone through the whole business with the help of a consultant and made improvements and savings through the recommendations.”

Mr Tollner said the Country Liberals Government was keen to diversify the Territory economy, cut red tape and make things easier for businesses and increase investment.

Around $8.3 million will go to workforce growth (planning, business, skilled migration and worker attraction) and about $98.1 million will be spent on training.

Territory Business Growth was introduced 15 years ago under the former Liberal Government. In 2012-13, it helped 145 businesses.