Treasurer David Tollner said figures released today show the Northern Territory is leading the nation when it comes to building activity.

In the year to March 2013, total building activity in the Territory increased by 24.4 per cent to $1.6 billion, the highest level on record and the highest growth rate of all jurisdictions (see chart).

Mr Tollner said despite the spin and negativity put on figures by the Labor Opposition in past months, the Country Liberals Government was focused on building the Territory and delivering results for business.

"If Delia Lawrie and her colleagues wish to talk down the state of the Territory economy then that’s up to them," Mr Tollner said.

“They have no policies and are becoming more irrelevant by the day. This Government is about focusing on the Territory’s strengths and making a commitment to a strong economic future. Our ‘open for business’ approach is delivering results."

Growth in building activity was driven by a 77.2 per cent increase in non-residential construction, reflecting work on major projects.

The value of private sector residential construction is currently at its highest level on record. In the year to March 2013, the value of private sector residential construction work increased to more than $500 million.

While there was a decline in residential building activity for the March quarter, this was a reflection of the Federal Government winding back the flawed Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program.

Despite this, private sector building in Darwin and Palmerston is supporting record high levels of residential construction.

Growth in private sector construction activity reflects the additional 1300 units currently being built in Darwin and Palmerston, as well as strong new house construction in the new suburbs of Bellamack, Johnston and Muirhead.

“These figures are another vote of confidence in the NT economy and a reflection of the way this government is doing business," Mr Tollner said.

Media Contact: Georgia McCabe 0438 384 506
Building Work Done - Year on year percentage change, inflation adjusted

Source: ABS Cat. No. 8752.0