An upgraded barge landing facility, improved roads and a new business centre are examples of how the Northern Territory Government is opening the door to new economic opportunities on the Tiwi Islands, Chief Minister Adam Giles said today.

Visiting the Tiwi Islands today, Mr Giles said he was pleased to see the strong partnership between the Tiwi and the Northern Territory Government delivering real progress for the Tiwi people.

“My Government is determined to foster the development of new business in our remote and regional areas, and ongoing investment in new and improved infrastructure is critical to ensuring the future economic prosperity of the Tiwi Islands,” he said.

“We have invested $2 million to upgrade the barge landing facility to help improve the movement of freight in and out of the Tiwi Islands, with the upgrade to be completed within the next few weeks and the Department of Transport currently working through arrangements for a facility operator.

“The upgrade - which includes a new shed, cold storage, an office, hardstand areas and security fencing - provides safe and secure storage of freight and provides a key year round transport link.

“It’s a great example of infrastructure investment by my Government that will support indigenous economic opportunity here on the Tiwi Islands.”

The Chief Minister also today signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Tiwi Islands Regional Council, the Tiwi Plantations Corporation and the Northern Territory Government to deliver critical road upgrades across the Tiwi Islands.

“The MOU will sit above the $33.5 million over three years provided in the 2015-16 Budget for Pickettarmoor road upgrades,” he said.

“This will assist with the delivery of the woodchip harvest to Port Melville, ensure all weather access to Tiwi College for its students and parents, and support indigenous work crews.”
During their visit today, the Chief Minister and Business Minister Peter Styles also officially opened the first pop-up Territory Business Centre.

“The Tiwi have a proud record of investing in Tiwi businesses and their own future to achieve their vision of an independent and resilient Tiwi society,” Mr Styles said.

“The new pop-up Territory Business Centre will provide business support services and be manned on a monthly basis by a dedicated Business Development Officer.

“Being co-located with the Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board provides the local community with a one stop shop of support services for business.

“I encourage all business owners, Indigenous Enterprises and not-for-profit organisations to contact their local Business Development Officer to discuss the potential for support under one of my Department’s programs such as Business in the Bush and Territorians – Start.Run.Grow.

“These programs are all about creating economic and employment opportunities for remote and regional Territorians.”

Local Member for Arafura Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu agreed the new infrastructure and Territory Business Centre were key pieces of economic infrastructure that could increase the possibilities of investment and jobs for the Tiwi people on Tiwi land.

“This agreement shows my constituents are committed to creating an economic future for their children and grandchildren,” he said.

“These announcements today are a great example of the Northern Territory Government’s strong collaborative partnership with the Tiwi to deliver economic development and opportunity for all Tiwi.”

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