International school to help position the NT as education and training hub

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A new international school would broaden the educational opportunities offered in the Northern Territory and provide a boost to the local economy, Chief Minister Adam Giles said today.

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government had this month begun a market sounding exercise to test the scope of and process for establishing an international school in Darwin.

Education Minister Peter Chandler said the Government was committed to improving educational outcomes for all Territorians and international students studying in the Territory.

“A new international school with boarding facilities will provide an additional choice in the education system for Territorians, as well as attract international and Australian students to the Territory,” he said.

“The facility would be the first of its kind in the Territory and help position the Territory as an international education and training hub.

“Around 1900 international students already study at NT institutions and it is anticipated demand will increase substantially over the next decade to cater for the expanding Asian upper and middle class.”

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government had identified a 15 hectare parcel of land at Berrimah as a potential greenfield site that could link into a research and knowledge hub, but it would ultimately be up to an operator to determine where to locate the school.

“The Northern Territory Government is focussed on securing strategic infrastructure projects to ensure the Territory is well positioned for future growth, and we strongly support private investment to improve public facilities,” he said.

“Based on feedback from the market sounding exercise, the Northern Territory Government will consider later in the year how to best progress the project.”

Mr Giles said an international school was one of a number of major projects the Government was pursuing to drive the Territory’s economy forward.
“The Territory’s economy is performing well, with our unemployment rate now the lowest in the country and our labour force participation rate the highest in the country,” he said.

“The Country Liberals Government has a plan to create more opportunities to deliver more jobs, better services and improve our unique way of life.”

**Media Contact:**

Marnie Hobson (Chief Minister) 0409 527 909,

Whittney Jago (Education Minister) 0417 926 426