Northern Territory businesses will soon experience the full benefits of the Country Liberals Government’s new Buy Local Plan as all elements are progressively rolled-out across the Territory.

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Business Peter Styles said more than 300 members of the business community attended the official Buy Local Plan launch at Parliament House last night.

Buy Local Plan supporter and long-term local business owner Harry Maschke has thrown his support behind the Country Liberals Government’s plan.

“After having the opportunity to fully examine the NT Government’s and the Opposition’s business plans it’s clear to me the Government is doing all the right things for business,” Action Sheetmetal Owner Mr Maschke said.

“I’ve had a good look at what both parties are offering and the Government is getting the job done now and we should stick with them.

“The Opposition Leader is copying what the Government is doing but on a smaller scale.

“After attending the Government’s Business Plan Information Forum on Monday I’m looking forward to seeing the Buy Local Plan convert into tangible benefits for my business and for businesses across the Territory.”

Mr Styles said starting today, the NT Government will implement a comprehensive communication campaign which will ensure businesses and the general public are aware of the Plan, how it will work and why it will benefit local businesses and Territorians in general.

“We developed this Buy Local Plan through extensive consultation with Territory businesses, industry associations and other stakeholders who told us former processes were too complicated and local businesses were missing out on opportunities,” Mr Styles said.

“As a result we have introduced a suite of measures designed to ensure local businesses are afforded the chance to gain a greater percentage of the $3 billion NT Government spending each year.
“As one of the largest purchasers in the Territory, every dollar spent by the NT government can have wider benefits for the community through the flow-on effect of wages, economic stimulation, community development and job creation.

“Legislation prevents government providing local businesses with an unfair preference but rather, the Buy Local Plan will ensure contracts are awarded to businesses which can demonstrate they will bring benefits to the local economy by for example; employing local workers or sourcing supplies locally.

“Essentially the Buy Local Plan will improve the way the local benefits of a tender application are identified, evaluated and delivered at all stages of the procurement and contracting lifecycle.”

Key elements of the Buy Local Plan include:

- Mandatory local involvement in all requests for quotes worth up to $100,000 is now in place, in addition to existing local content requirements for all tenders above $100,000.

To support this measure a new term ‘Territory Enterprise’ has been introduced to identify local businesses as ‘An enterprise operating in the Northern Territory, with a significant permanent presence in the NT and employing NT residents.’

- The minimum weighting of local content and benefits has been increased from 20% to 25% in all government quotes and tenders.

- Ensuring local content commitments included in tender responses are carried through into the contract terms and are monitored throughout.

- An independent Local Benefit Advisory Panel (LBAP) of Territorians is being established to review and advise on Buy Local aspects of the tender responses and contracts estimated to be worth more than $5 million. The LBAP is currently being finalised and will be announced in the near future.

The Buy Local Plan can be found at www.buylocal.nt.gov.au.

Media Contact: Rebecca Barr: 0407 284 066