Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for the development of a horticultural enterprise near Alice Springs.

Ken Vowles, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, said the Territory Labor Government is providing opportunities to increase economic development in the Alice Springs region through the leasing of land for commercial opportunities.

“There is 30 hectares of land and recycled water at the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) to be developed. AZRI is responsible for advancing regional research and initiatives to encourage regional economic growth.

“This Labor Government is focused on delivering greater ‘on farm’ impact of research undertaken so this opportunity provides a clear pathway of research knowledge.

“Previous research shows the land is suitable for the production of high value crops such as table grapes, dates, melons, vegetables, herbs, native bush foods, stone fruit, citrus, pomegranates and nuts.

“The use of recycled water and AZRI’s proximity to Alice Springs makes this a great opportunity for a new horticulture venture.

“The successful enterprise will use recycled water through the ‘Water Reuse in the Alice’ project which uses a combination of water treatment and storage initiatives to recycle wastewater,” Mr Vowles said.

This EOI seeks proposals from interested parties to license the land and undertake development that will:

• grow the existing horticultural industry in the region
• provide improvements to support the use and development of the land for irrigated horticulture
• respond adequately to the opportunities and constraints of the land
• provide opportunities for local industry
• demonstrate sustainable use of the land through an effective business model.

“This project will also help create employment and economic opportunities for the region and help grow the local horticulture industry,” Mr Vowles said.

For a copy of the EOI documents, register at www.dpir.nt.gov.au/azri-lease, or email landrelease.dpir@nt.gov.au

Expressions of interest close at 4 pm ACST on 23 March 2017.

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheena Dunne 0427 687 079