Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling today unveiled the Territory Government’s blueprint for maximising job and training opportunities for Territorians over the next three years.

Jobs Plan NT – Building the Northern Territory Workforce is the NT’s first-ever comprehensive jobs plan. It has been developed in close consultation with industry, unions, businesses and the community.

"Under the Plan, Government over the next three years will spend $160 million on training and skills development; support 7000 apprentices and trainees; and provide $7 million in incentives for employers taking on apprentices and trainees," Mr Stirling said.

The $160 million in training and skills development includes:

- $110 million for training;
- $33 million to fund and support the training of 7000 apprentices and 400 school-based apprenticeships and traineeships;
- $6 million for training in remote communities;
- $1.2 million for pre-apprenticeship training in skills shortage areas;
- $7 million to enhance school-to-work transition; and
- $4 million on higher education scholarships and bursaries

The $7 million in incentives includes:

- Employer Bonus of $2200 per apprentice/trainee. Target: 950 new apprentices and trainees;
- Employer Bonus of $7700 for an apprentice in a traditional trades area. Target: 120 trade apprenticeships;
- $900,000 in incentives to local and community councils. Target: 200 extra apprentices and trainees across the NT;
- an extra 200 Public Sector trainees; and
- an extra $1.25 million to fund extra training provided.

"For too long, the Territory has suffered from skills shortages, with businesses having great difficulty in attracting appropriately qualified workers," Mr Stirling said.

"Jobs Plan is an important framework for growing and developing our skills
base; boosting opportunities for all Territorians; and constructing a highly skilled and flexible workforce," Mr Stirling said.

*Jobs Plan* is made up of three interlinked components:

- *Workforce Employment and Training Strategy* – which will provide the vision, strategic direction and key priority areas;
- *Jobs NT* – which will link employment and training opportunities with annual Government spending and private investment; and
- *Workforce NT* – a comprehensive report bringing together research data and other information to better plan and develop employment and training programs.

"With the Territory on the verge of unprecedented economic growth, the Plan underpins and strengthens Government’s partnerships with industry, business, unions and the community as we meet the exciting new challenges ahead.

"For the first time ever, the Northern Territory has a working framework to guide our combined efforts as we expand opportunities for Territorians; strengthen support for business; and build a better Territory."