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New training ground a boost for Territory economy

The Deputy Chief Minister, Syd Stirling, will witness the signing of an historic Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that will see the creation of new jobs for Territorians and inject millions of dollars into the Territory economy.

Mr Stirling will join Federal Defence Minister, Senator Robert Hill, and Traditional Owners when they sign the ILUA for the Bradshaw Field Training Ground near Timber Creek on Wednesday.

"This historic agreement with the Traditional Owners of the Timber Creek region is not only further evidence of the Northern Territory’s strategic importance to our national security, but adds further momentum to the Territory’s regional economic development," Mr Stirling said.

"Importantly, this agreement will see new jobs, and business and training opportunities for local Indigenous people."

Mr Stirling said construction works on the site, including roads and an airstrip, would be worth more than $50m, with many of the tenders expected to go to local companies.

"Already, Territory company Steelcon has built the new $6m bridge over the Victoria River under a tender managed by the Northern Territory Government," said Mr Stirling.

"The Government, through the Defence Support Unit in the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, will work to promote and support local companies to secure more of the contracts for Bradshaw."

The work on the Bradshaw Training Field will be carried out over two dry seasons, with ongoing maintenance and service support tenders for the life of the facility.

"The signing of the ILUA will be an historic moment for the Northern Territory, and I commend all involved in reaching this milestone."