The long-term benefits from the railway have been bolstered with a number of international businesses expressing interest in establishing themselves in the Territory following the Chief Minister’s address to the Chamber of Commerce in Singapore.

Companies ranging from logistic firms to electrical appliance outlets are expected to hold detailed discussion on the benefits of the rail-link in coming months.

"With the railway nearing completion and Timor Sea gas coming onshore there is a growing focus on the Territory as a place to invest," Clare Martin said.

"Today we invited a number or organisations to visit Darwin and capitalise on the five percent growth expected in the region over the next 10 years. There has been strong interest from companies in establishing themselves at the Business Park which is a step in the right direction."

Ms Martin said that the railway had recently achieved yet another milestone with more than three-quarters of the line now completed and $800 million of the $1.3 billion already spent.

"With the railway now a reality Government has been telling the Asian business community about the upcoming benefits. We have focused on the significant Australian markets that will open and the quicker and easier transport that the new railway and Territory port will provide," she said.

New details of the strengths of the railway were also announced today with the Chief Minister saying many days in transport time, and significant savings in supply chain costs, will be possible.

"When companies such as Mitsubishi spend $100,000 per-day on storage in Australia it is clear that significant savings will be made through the railway. Time is money, making the railway a valuable asset for years to come and now is the time to attract the business to the Territory," she said.

Ms Martin also met with leading Singapore Ministers, including the deputy Prime Minister and defence Minister, and toured cruise liner facilities.

"Continuing strong defence training links and attracting more cruise-liners to Darwin is important to this Government’s job creation plan. The cruise liner meeting allowed us to highlight our tourism potential and build relationships important in establishing new and lucrative Singapore/Darwin travel links," she said.