Katherine’s potential to be developed as a freight hub for produce from Western Australia’s Ord River will be discussed tomorrow at a meeting convened by the Territory Government.

Business, Industry and Resource Development Minister Paul Henderson said officials from the Office of Territory Development and Ord River Irrigation Project will meet to discuss improving links to Katherine.

Earlier this year, the Minister approached the Western Australian Government to look at the option of transporting products from the Ord River through Katherine.

"I believe transporting these products through Katherine could be a viable option and I’m pleased to the WA Government, Ord River group and Office of Territory Development are coming together to assess the options available," he said

Tomorrow’s workshop in Katherine will look at the type and quantity of product that could potentially be shipped through the town to southern markets and cost levels that would have to be met in order for this freight-route to be competitive.

About 55,000 tonnes could be transported from the Ord River Irrigation Project, with produce ranging from watermelons and rockmelons to sorghum beans.

Mr Henderson said the most likely scenario at this stage would see a combination of rail and road transport networks put in place to move the produce.

"The AustralAsia Railway will provide fast and efficient access to southern states and the Port of Darwin, but Freightlink and the Northern Territory Government are also assessing road transport from the Ord to Katherine," he said.

Infrastructure and planning requirements will also be discussed, including the need for new consolidation and distribution facilities in Katherine.

"As a rail and road transport hub, Katherine could play a major role in the Territory’s import and export networks. This would inevitably lead to more jobs and increased economic development," said Mr Henderson.

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