Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Kon Vatskalis, says Government support for the creation of a Northern Territory Freight Working Group will ensure opportunities in the freight industry in the Northern Territory are maximised.

Mr Vatskalis said that NT Freight Working Group will receive funding of $600,000 from the Territory and Commonwealth Governments over the next three years.

"The Freight Working Group will facilitate education and training programs for the whole of the freight transport industry in the Northern Territory."

"The Working Group and will also undertake strategic research to boost development of the AustralAsia Trade Route. This will include support for landbridging freight trials."

Mr Vatskalis said the Freight Working Group will be coordinated by the Office of Territory Development and will include industry representation from:

- Transport, Engineering and Automotive Training Advisory Council NT
- Australian Trucking Association NT
- Darwin Port Corporation
- Representatives of the NT Aviation Industry
- Asia Pacific Transport Company
- Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport NT.

Mr Vatskalis said the NT Freight Working Group’s priorities will be consistent with objectives of the freight industry identified at the national level. These objectives are identified in the national Agenda for Action in Freight Logistics.

Priority areas identified nationally are: investment in people through training and development; enhanced innovation through application of technology and knowledge; improved environmental impacts and a socially responsive industry; development of industry leadership; and, improved planning for strategic infrastructure.

"Discussions are underway to establish the NT Freight Working Group and it is planned to hold the first meeting in late October."