Chief Minister Clare Martin today announced her government would host a two-day Economic Development Summit, between the October and November Sittings of Parliament.

Ms Martin said the government would invite a cross-section of participants to the summit, including representatives from business associations, regional communities, non-government organisations, unions and Indigenous organisations.

"My government has already made a clear commitment to consult widely with the community on the Allan Report and in the preparation of our November mini-Budget," she said.

"A Economic Development Summit will provide a forum for meaningful discussion about and the development of strategies to deal with major issues facing the Territory in the medium to long term.

"The summit will help refine the Labor Government’s long-term blueprint for economic development and prosperity through an inclusive and broad-ranging dialogue with principal interest groups."

Ms Martin said solutions to the challenges facing the Territory, including the impacts of the aviation crisis and the terrorist attacks in the United States, required a partnership approach including business, industry and community groups and government.

"These challenges demand collective responses and lateral solutions and a great deal of collaboration and cooperation among sometimes disparate groups," she said.

"We all need to work together to create the Territory’s future and it is important that all groups understand the imperative to drive our economic and social growth."

Ms Martin said the concept of a summit to involve the community in resolving major issues had been used successfully in Australia on a number of occasions.

"We will have a strong facilitator to ensure that debate delivers outcomes and we will need to canvass prospects for our Northern Territory economy within a national and global context and with a realistic assessment of our true budgetary situation.

"Implementation of recommendations from the summit will include using information presented at the summit to incorporate in our economic strategy to guide Territory development and referring specific issue to the Business Roundtable."

Ms Martin said summit proceedings would be made widely available to Territory communities.

"I am determined to lead the Territory into a new and prosperous future but to do this I need the advice and the assistance of our business and community leaders," she said.

"The problems we face are not just problems for the government to solve and we do not have a monopoly on good ideas.

"My government will listen to and include the ideas of summit participants in our plans for the Territory’s future."
Ms Martin said Cabinet would consider a final format for the summit tomorrow, with the Minister for Industries and Business Paul Henderson to chair a summit organising committee.