Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today launched the Government's Economic Development Strategy *Building a Better Territory* aimed at creating more, and better, jobs for Territorians.

"With this strategy we consolidate the achievements of the past, and set out our new plans for the future of the Territory over the coming decades," Ms Martin said.

"A great many measures can be achieved in the Government's first term and – unlike anything before it – the strategy includes timelines and benchmarks.

"Central to this strategy is attracting new business to the Territory. And that means jobs, more jobs and better jobs for Territorians regardless of where they live."

Ms Martin said she had chosen the Baker Hughes mud plant at East Arm Port to launch the strategy because it was a great example of a business attracted by the exciting developments in the Timor Sea, and the Territory’s fast-growing oil and gas industries.

The plant provides a good example of the first part of the Government's five point economic development strategy:

- Building on past successes and create new industries.
- Improving economic outcomes for indigenous Territorians
- Encouraging skills and innovation with better education and training, and better communications and IT
- Developing the Territory’s regions and
- Creating an attractive investment climate.

"Importantly, this strategy document includes timetables and benchmarks. Its progress can be measured, and it has been developed in partnership and through consultation with key stakeholders from across the Territory.

"The document follows the outstanding success of the Economic Development Summit in November last year and is a first for the Territory.

"Our opportunities are remarkable. We have a small population in an area of land one-sixth the size of mainland Australia. We are the nation’s front door to Asia, the natural hub for trade and investment with this vast region."

Ms Martin said among the Territory's strengths were the railway and the port, building new and important links between Asia and Australia. As well, the Territory was poised to realise the full benefit of gas developments in the Timor Sea.

"Initiatives such as the rollout of telecommunications to remote
communities and desert knowledge in Central Australia provide evidence of the resolve of this Government to see that the benefits of growth are realised Territory-wide.

"Viable regions and strong Indigenous Economic Development must complement the newly emerging industries – this will create untold opportunities for all Territorians.

"Our strategy provides particular focus to the provision of Indigenous employment opportunities, with the emphasis on sustainable jobs.

"Sustainable jobs, sustainable communities, a sustainable environment, and sustainable social development are core themes."

The Government’s key aims will be measured by how far it meets its plans to build:

0. a thriving economic hub in northern Australia,

1. an equitable society with opportunities available to all Territorians, with particular emphasis on improving the economic prospects for Indigenous communities,

2. training and education for a skilled and innovative people with confidence in the future for themselves and their children, and

3. a whole of Territory approach to the way business is done.

Ms Martin said, if the Territory’s different interest groups worked in partnership with the Government the Economic Development Strategy was a vision and a blueprint for action that was fully achievable.