Regional Development Minister John Ah Kit handed over a cheque for $15,000 towards sponsoring the annual Katherine Country Music Muster at the Katherine Museum today.

“Community events such as the Katherine Country Music Muster really are the heart and soul of regional areas in the Territory and it is a real privilege for us to be able to help out.

“Events like this put a spotlight not just on the potential of regional areas of the Territory, but on the people themselves,” said Mr Ah Kit.

“The Muster has a firmly established National Song Writing Competition and this year will kick off the NT Bush Poet Awards. There’ll be busking and the Big Brekkie local talent event.

“We’re looking to entertainers such as Tamworth Golden Guitar winner, Sara Storer, and Tamworth Best New Talent Dianna Corcoran.

Mr Ah Kit said that events such as the Katherine Country Music Muster were identified in the Katherine Regional Development Plan adopted last year as key elements in the development of tourism in the region.

“The people of Katherine are not sitting on their back sides—they are pulling together to strengthen and sustain the region.

“The kind of support Government can give is a real helping hand to this kind of initiative,” said Mr Ah Kit. “And this is being solidly supported by local businesses and volunteers who are also backing the future through the Muster.

The Katherine Country Music Muster will be held this year 30 April-2 May at the Katherine Museum on the Gorge Road opposite the hospital.

For further details contact Muster President, Shirley Canning, on 08 8972 3945 or the web site at http://www.kcmm.com.au.