ABS data released today confirms that the Territory is experiencing strong construction and engineering activity, Treasurer Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said the preliminary data shows that total construction work in the Territory increased by 59.5% to $629 million in the March quarter 2005 (seasonally adjusted).

There was a slight drop in construction work in the year to the March quarter of 1.2% to $1.88 billion, but this was coming off a very high base.

Other seasonally adjusted building and engineering activity figures for the March quarter 2005 shows:

- Real engineering work rose by 86.6% to $526 million, supported by Bayu-Undan Stage Two, the start of construction of the Alcan G3 expansion, work for the East Arm wharf, as well as increased roads and residential subdivision activity;
- Total building work, including residential and non-residential, increased by 9.1% to $115.5 million;
- Building work in the pipeline, a forward indicator of activity which has been approved, increased by 7% to $235 million.

Mr Stirling said engineering and construction work had risen significantly in the past few years.

“In the ten years to 2001, Northern Territory engineering work averaged around $250 million per annum.

“In the three years since, engineering work has averaged $1,400 million per annum – a massive increase.

“Along with strong private investment, the Territory Government is supporting this activity with record infrastructure spending and incentives for home buyers.

“On the back of strong economic and population growth, continuing strong construction and engineering activity is proof that the local economy is really moving ahead.”

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