Alice Springs businesses have secured 41 of the 47 Government building and civil contracts valued at over $200,000 awarded in Central Australia during the last two financial years, Business Minister Paul Henderson said.

The contracts are worth more than $34.4M, with $13.1M awarded in 2002-03 and $21.3M awarded to date in this financial year.

“Part of the Government’s commitment to keeping the Territory moving ahead is a commitment to purchasing based on best value to the Territory, using Territory businesses whenever possible,” Mr Henderson said.

“As well as benefiting the individual companies who secured the work, the $34.4M from these contracts will continue to cycle around the local economy, benefiting other small businesses.”

The contracts awarded range from $201,835.80 to L&R Builders Pty Ltd for the construction of the Tennant Creek Rail Passenger Terminal, to $5,328,507.55 to Steelcon Constructions (NT) Pty Ltd for the construction of the Stuart Highway Finke River Crossing.

Of the six contracts that did not go to Central Australian companies, five went to Darwin businesses and one to an interstate company.

“Businesses in Central Australia consistently prove their capabilities to perform high quality work in the construction industry,” said Mr Henderson.

“The Martin Government will continue to support these predominantly small businesses to see as many contracts as possible stay in the local industry.”