DARWIN PLANS FOR STRONG ECONOMIC FUTURE

A broad range of business people attended an open forum in Darwin last night to have their say in shaping the future of the Northern Territory economy.

About 45 people attended the forum was co-chaired by the Minister for Business and Economic Development, Paul Henderson, and the Chair of the Darwin Regional Economic Development Board, Mr Duncan Beggs.

The open regional economic forums are being held in the lead up to the Government’s Economic Development Summit next week, and have already been held in Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, with Katherine to follow.

Mr Henderson said the regional forums were proving to be a valuable means of hearing the views of business people and individuals in planning for the Territory’s economic future.

“The issues identified at the regional forums and the Economic Summit will have a central role in shaping 2015: Moving the Territory Ahead, an economic development framework for the Territory over the next 10 years, and last night’s participants put forward some good ideas and concepts for the Darwin region,” Mr Henderson said.

“Amongst the issues identified was the need to build and grow emerging industries such as the ICT sector while maximising on the opportunities in existing industries such as Defence Support, growing markets and targeting new trade opportunities in Asia, and improving infrastructure.

“As with the other regional forums, the issue of building the Territory’s skills base and retaining skilled workers was a prominent issue for discussion.

“I look forward to another successful open forum in Katherine tomorrow night.”

The Katherine regional forum is being held on Wednesday 16 November from 5pm to 7pm at the Katherine Club.

For more information on the forums and the Summit, visit www.nt.gov.au/ntsummit.

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