PUSH CONTINUES FOR TIGER BENEFITS

Defence Support Minister Paul Henderson today met with the manufacturers of the Army’s new Tiger reconnaissance helicopters as part of the Martin Government’s ongoing promotion of Territory business capabilities to secure Tiger related contracts.

Mr Henderson met with Australian Aerospace’s Vice President for Production and Military Services, Mr Rob Hunter, at the company’s operation near the Brisbane Airport.

“Seventeen of the Army’s 22 new Tiger choppers will be based at Robertson Barracks and the Martin Government is backing Territory business to secure as many benefits as possible from their presence,” Mr Henderson said.

“Already Territory businesses have secured the lion’s share of $75M in construction work at Robertson Barracks in preparation for the arrival of the Tigers, and there are more economic opportunities to come.

“Australian Aerospace will be setting up in Darwin with a team of 20 aircraft engineers, including five local apprentices, to provide the through life support for the choppers over the next 15 years.

“A Helicopter Underwater Escape Training facility is being developed at Hudson Creek by Territory small business Accrete, opening up another avenue of business opportunity.

“Another business, Thales, is setting up in Darwin with up to 10 staff to run simulator training activity, presenting more job and economic opportunities.

“And of course, the arrival of 400 Defence personnel and their families from 1st Aviation Regiment in support of the Tigers will see the building of a whole new suburb and ongoing economic and community benefits.

“The Martin Government knows how significant the arrival of the new Tiger helicopters will be for the Territory economy and we will continue to back Territory business to secure as many job and economic benefits as possible.”

Mr Henderson will tomorrow represent the Chief Minister at the Australian Trade Ministers Council before attending the Australian Small Business Ministers Council meeting on Wednesday.

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