The need to promote and maximise on business success stories, explore new opportunities in emerging industries and build indigenous employment and investment opportunities are just some of the issues raised at an economic forum in Alice Springs last night.

Forty five people attended the forum, which was hosted by Business and Economic Development Minister Paul Henderson.

The group came from a diverse of backgrounds and industries, including infrastructure, tourism, pastoralism, mining, indigenous enterprise, and science and innovation.

“Last night’s open forum is one of five being held across the Territory prior to the Government’s Economic Development Summit later this month, and it was encouraging to see so many people having their say on the Territory’s economic future,” Mr Henderson said.

“The group offered a broad range of ideas on growing Central Australia and the Territory over the next 10 years, including the need for innovation in doing business, growing emerging industries such as the film industry and maximising on existing industries such as indigenous art and tourism, and building and improving freight access and infrastructure.

“The group also focused on the need to promote the great lifestyle on offer in Central Australia and Alice Springs to attract more skilled and professional people to the town, and improve training and education outcomes for the young people of the region.

“The issues raised at the Alice Springs and other regional forums and at 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.

“The Government wants all Territorians to be involved in building and planning for the Territory’s future and I encourage everyone their say on driving our economic development over the next 10 years.”

The final two regional economic forums will be held in Darwin on 14 November and in Katherine on 16 November prior to the Economic Development Summit from 22 to 24 November.

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

Contact: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389