MEDIA RELEASE

MIKE REED
MEMBER FOR KATHERINE

Ref: R-0931-99

Date: 24 November 1999

Katherine residents and business operators will be able to get a first-hand briefing on the opportunities flowing from the Alice Springs to Darwin rail project at a forum next month (Dec 8).

Member for Katherine, Mike Reed, urged all members of the community to attend given the significance of the $1.2 billion project.

"Katherine will be a construction base, with the railway being constructed simultaneously north and south of the town," Mr Reed said.

The NT Railway Business Briefing will involve briefings from a senior executive from Asia Pacific, the preferred consortium and the AustralAsia Railway Corporation.

Areas to be covered in the information sessions include:
• the 70 percent local content plan for the NT and SA;
• sub-contracting opportunities;
• material supply opportunities; and
• the construction timeframe.

Mr Reed said the railway was an internationally significant project, which is expected to create up to 2000 jobs in the Territory.

"The railway would be one of the top ten infrastructure projects going on in the world right now and I urge the Katherine community to grab this opportunity to get a firsthand briefing on its implications," Mr Reed said.

The Industry Search and Opportunities Office (ISO) is formulating a register of businesses for the preferred consortium and it will also be represented at the information session.
"The ISO has direct links to the Asia Pacific consortium and has been tasked with matching the material supply requirements of the project with local suppliers.

"Businesses will be given advice on how to register with the ISO and I'd urge all Katherine businesses to do so.

"You don't have to be BHP to be involved in this project. A workforce will need feeding and accommodating, equipment will need repairing and machinery will need drivers, all of which represent opportunities for Katherine business.

"The first step is to get an understanding of the project from the forum," Mr Reed said.

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