Employment and Training Minister Paul Henderson has unveiled a package of new initiatives including improved legislation to create safer workplaces in the Northern Territory.

Mr Henderson said the Working Safer package was an important measure in harnessing the Territory’s economic opportunities and building a skilled workforce.

“The Territory economy is bucking national trends, and we are forecast to have the highest job growth rate in Australia over the next five years,” Mr Henderson said.

“Attracting and keeping the right staff is a key issue for Territory businesses, and a safe working environment is a must if businesses are to have the staff they need to get the most benefit from the Territory’s strong economy.

“To help tailor the Working Safer initiatives to meet the Territory’s needs, the package has been developed in consultation with industry throughout the year.”

Last year, workers compensation premiums cost Territory businesses $82 million – an average of $6,000 per business – and 2,949 injury claims were lodged by employees.

“Working Safer delivers modern and clearer laws; better training and support options for employers and employees, and improved services from the Government’s work safety authority, NT WorkSafe.

“It’s a commonsense package giving employers and employees the practical training and resources to identify and resolve health and safety issues on the job, before accidents happen.”

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Attached: Summary of Working Safer package