The Chief Minister Paul Henderson has written to Myer asking the shopping giant to consider establishing a store in Darwin or Palmerston.

“My Government is open for business and committed to attracting investors,” he said.

“Myer recently announced it will expand its chain from 65 to 80 stores, as part of its re-listing on the Australian Stock Exchange.

“I want one of those stores in Darwin or Palmerston

“I have written to Myer CEO Bernie Brookes asking him to consider building a Myer store in Darwin or Palmerston. I have explained we have a strong and growing economy, a young and growing population and healthy retail trade figures.

“Myer has received our approach positively and I’m in the process of organising a presentation to the Myer executive about the many benefits of setting up in the Territory.

“This is an exciting prospect and I know every Territorian will be behind our push to get Myer here.”

The Northern Territory Government’s efforts to attract Myer come as the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows further good news for Territory businesses.

“In year on year terms, the Territory recorded the highest retail turnover in Australia at 12.6 per cent, more than double the national turnover of 5.1 per cent,” Mr Henderson said.
“In seasonally adjusted terms, $217 million was spent in Territory shops and restaurants during August.

“The figures show that despite the global recession the Territory remains a great place to do business.”

The retail trade figures for the month of August, show a slight 0.7 per cent decrease in retail turnover compared with the previous month (seasonally adjusted), while nationally there was a moderate 0.9 per cent increase in retail turnover.

The Territory’s turnover in August was bolstered by a 7 per cent increase in take away food and a 2.5 per cent increase in supermarket and grocery services.

Mr Henderson said building approval data also released by the ABS today showed the Territory continued to record strong building growth.

In August, 102 residential dwellings with a value of $37 million were approved in the Territory,” he said.

“These figures are positive indication that the Territory Government’s BuildStart and Homestart schemes along with the Australian Government’s First Home Owners Boost are continuing to help more Territorians in to their own home,” he said.

In the year to August 2009, residential building approvals increased by 4.6 per cent compared to the year to August 2008.

For the month of August residential building approvals in the Territory decreased 5.2 per cent in trend terms while nationally residential building approvals increased by 1.6 per cent.

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*Fresh Ideas, Real Results*