Territory welcomes investment into growing local skilled workers and plan to slash red tape

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today welcomed the Australian Government's $18.1 million investment in Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the Territory.

Chief Minister Henderson said the Council Of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement will help to train more local apprentices and trainees as the Territory gears up for growth.

"The Territory has a very bright future as we move into becoming the oil and gas capital of northern Australia and a period of significant high skill, high wage growth," Mr Henderson said.

"I made it known to COAG that apprentices and traineeships are a key part of our plans to grow a skilled local workforce so Territory kids can have access to world class jobs here in the Territory.

"This agreement will help more than 2,500 additional VET students complete their qualifications and see the introduction of loans, similar to the HECS arrangement, for government subsidised diploma and advanced diploma students to help reduce their study costs.

"The agreement will also ensure working age Territorians without qualifications can have their fees waived for their first approved Certificate III qualification.

"Importantly the arrangement provides an avenue for apprentices or trainees, by removing any financial barriers for kids looking to sign up to a qualifying trade.

"We are on track to delivering 10,000 new apprentices and trainees over four years under our Jobs NT plan and our Territory 2030 target to get more Territorians into VET."

Chief Minister Henderson also announced the Territory Government will immediately establish a Taskforce to slash red tape for businesses following agreed outcomes out of the Business Advisory Forum in Canberra yesterday.

Chief Minister Henderson said the Taskforce would be the responsibility of the Treasurer and Minister for Business, Delia Lawrie, and will include key business representatives and will be tasked with identifying burdensome and redundant government regulations and streamline government approval processes.

"I am keen to hear from the businesses community about areas of red tape they think can be streamlined or done away with," Mr Henderson said.
"We'll be making a case to the Australian Government to slash any red tape where there is any duplication or burdensome processes that we can do without.

"I want to see COAG deliver on its promise to cut red tape.

"The Territory is committed to supporting business and remains the lowest taxing jurisdiction for small to medium business in Australia.

"We're gearing up for a period of significant economic growth and are committed to making it easy for businesses to capitalise on opportunities to grow.

"Next week my Treasurer and Business and Employment Minister, Delia Lawrie will be contacting key business leaders to invite them to first taskforce meetings," Mr Henderson said.

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