Defence Project Teams will visit Darwin for the first time next year to assess local capabilities to support defence operational requirements, following a meeting between Defence Support Minister Paul Henderson and senior Defence personnel in Canberra today.

It was one of a number of meetings in which Mr Henderson outlined Government’s plans to expand on future dealings with Defence business.

"Traditionally, the Government has focused on Defence construction opportunities, but I am looking at ways to expand on this," said Mr Henderson.

"In agreeing to visit and assess local capabilities, the Australian Defence Force has acknowledged the possibility of expanding the Territory’s role in supporting Defence projects."

Mr Henderson said he was keen to work with the ADF in assessing where local businesses’ capabilities may need to be upgraded to develop and secure future jobs.

"Already the ADF is looking to the future. It has outlined plans to move tanks on our railway," he said. "I am confident that Territory businesses will be able to provide this kind of "whole of life" support for defence projects and infrastructure in the coming years."

Mr Henderson also met with Federal Defence Minister Robert Hill this morning.

Senator Hill acknowledged the expanding presence of the ADF in Northern Australia and expressed his support for the Government’s plans to engage in "whole of life" business contracts.

"The Government has a long term plan to create more Territory jobs through defence-related business," said Mr Henderson. "I am confident that my meetings today have set up firmly on that path."