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Rail 1st year celebration a timely reminder of more urgency needed to build our AustralAsia sea bridge

For the Darwin to Adelaide railway to be truly successful and realise its full potential for Territorians, greater effort needs to be done to increase trade on our AustralAsia trade route, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

“Today’s milestone one year anniversary of the arrival of the first freight train from Adelaide is a celebration of Territorians’ shared faith and determination of the former CLP Government to make Darwin the doorway to Australia, Mr Mills said today.

“That vision and determination has been rewarded for all Territorians with a north-south rail trade link up and running,” Mr Mills said.

“But the job is only half done with the railway’s full potential not yet fully realised.

“When the former CLP Government invested Territorians’ money in the Darwin to Adelaide railway it was with a vision to growing the Territory and building a land sea bridge into Asia.

“We have the railway, we have the port and now greater effort is needed to build our AustralAsia trade route.

“I am delighted to see important trade talks taking place in Jakarta today with our AustralAsia trade route a focus.

“My biggest disappointment is that the current Government did not understand the need for selling the AustalAsia trade route two years ago.

“The Territory is now playing catch up and the lack of goods flowing from Asian ports into Darwin and on to the railway is holding back the railway and the full benefits that could be enjoyed by Territorians.”

Ends