This week the President of the Republic of Palau, Tommy E Remengesau Jr, and a delegation of 70 government and business leaders will visit Darwin on the Palau Micronesia Air flight to Darwin Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today.

“Palau Air has recently established two flights per week to Darwin with just 3.5 hours flying time,” she said.

“There is real potential for the Territory to develop trade between the two regions and I look forward to meeting this delegation later this week.”

Ms Martin said that a Government officer is currently in Palau exploring the opportunities for Territory businesses.

“When in Darwin, the visiting delegation will look at tourism related services and meet potential suppliers to meet the demand for fresh produce including diary products, meats, vegetables and bread,” she said.

“In addition, the supply of materials, machinery and repair services are other areas being explored.”

The Chief Minister said that businesses to be visited by the delegation include: Parmalet, Independent Grocers, Darwin Bakery, and Fresh Produce Distributors.

“Apart from these business opportunities, Palau is known for its natural beauty and as a world class dive destination which will also result in tourism spin-offs for the Territory,” she said.

“The flight schedule opens the doors for interstate travellers to travel to Darwin for connecting flights and is also another airline that global travellers may take advantage of.

“I look forward to welcoming the President and establishing closer trade, cultural and sporting relationships with this region.”