Darwin businesses stand to benefit from new army tanks

The Army’s new M1A1 Abrams tanks could inject more than $10M a year into the Darwin economy and grow our skilled workforce, Defence Support Minister Paul Henderson said.

The 59 Abrams Tanks will be stationed with 1st Brigade at Robertson Barracks from 2007.

“The maintenance and support of the tanks is estimated to be worth more than $10M a year, which presents great opportunities for Territory businesses and jobs for Territorians,” Mr Henderson said.

“In addition to the boost to the local economy, niche markets such as the Abrams’ highly technical suite of electronics and gas turbine engines present opportunities to grow the Territory’s skilled workforce.”

“The Territory Government, through our dedicated Defence Industry Support Division, will continue to identify and promote opportunities for Territory businesses to secure as much work as possible flowing from the Abrams Tanks.

“Today’s announcement has great potential for Territory businesses, and it is timely for the Commonwealth Government to consider what land nearby to Robertson Barracks could be made accessible for Territory businesses to support the Abrams Tanks and other defence related business.

“The Territory is encouraging Federal Defence Minister Robert Hill to encourage him to progress this issue.”