The Government will release a workforce report in the near future which will provide a blue print for future spending on training and labour force development in the Territory, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling told Parliament today.

Mr Stirling said it would be the first time a comprehensive labour market analysis had been done for the Northern Territory.

"For years, CLP Governments spent money on training and did so with no real analysis and no real information about the future workforce needs of the Territory," he said.

"It was a haphazard approach, relying solely on the Government’s capital works program and the investment made by the private sector and the Commonwealth.

"This was reflected in the lack of focused job creation and jobs planning by the previous Government.

"The result of those policies is the flying-in and flying-out of skills on a regular basis for major projects.

"It also means that the Territory’s natural workforce – our local young people in particular – were not receiving targeted training or skills development that would lead to meaningful employment.

"This Government is changing that approach radically, by ensuring that the Territory workforce receives the skills they will need to take up available jobs now and into the future.

"But before that can be done, we need to properly identify the labour market in the Territory and where the skills gaps are.

"To do that, we have developed an analysis that will be released in the near future which draws on broad information from local Territory and Commonwealth government agencies, published industry research, and industry and community knowledge.

"It will be supplemented by a series of studies into community specific or industry specific labour force issues.

"It will be the first time in the Territory’s history that such a report has been drawn together and will provide strategic guidance to Government on the way funding should be spent on employment and training initiatives in the Territory."