



Paul Henderson
CHIEF MINISTER



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NEW JEWEL IN DARWIN'S CROWN OPENS

Chief Minister Paul Henderson has encouraged Territorians to be ambassadors for the new jewel in the Territory's crown as he officially opened the Darwin Convention Centre.

Mr Henderson said the \$115 million Convention Centre is ready to host the world.

"The opening of the new Convention Centre marks a new era in Darwin's economy, and it's already delivering beyond expectations," Mr Henderson said.

"With 4000 square metres of exhibition space, a 1500 seat plenary hall, waterfront function rooms and 12 meeting rooms the Convention Centre really is the new jewel in Darwin's crown.

"I want Territorians to be ambassadors for our Convention Centre and part of its ongoing success, and that's why over the next five days we are opening its doors for a community celebration.

"Eleven-thousand delegates have already booked to attend 23 conferences and exhibitions at the Centre in the next year – 11,000 extra visitors to Darwin delivering an additional 76 000 visitor nights and injecting a minimum \$880,000 into our economy.

"It was built by Territorians on budget and ahead of schedule, with more than \$90 million or 95% of the contracts going to local businesses."

Over the next five days, more than 2000 students will tour the Convention Centre and take part in school performances and art exhibitions.

Other events during the community celebration include public self-guided tours, tourism displays, Togart Awards, fireworks, laser lights and an extreme jet-ski and watershow displays.

A full schedule of events is available at www.waterfront.nt.gov.au.

"More than 180 jobs will be created at the Centre, opening up new opportunities for Territorians in the hospitality industry, and small business and the tourism industry will benefit from the ongoing opportunities delivered by events at the Centre," said Mr Henderson.

"The new Darwin Convention Centre will deliver for Territory families for years to come, and I look forward to seeing Territorians at this weekend's celebration."

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