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One-stop Shop for Developers to be Established

The Territory Government and Darwin City Council will introduce new measures designed to reduce red tape and speed up development processes for the city.

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer agreed at the Capital City Committee meeting yesterday to set up a one-stop shop to help guide businesses through the development approval and post-approval processes.

“This is an initiative that will speed up the planning process and make doing business in the Territory easier and more efficient,” Mr Henderson said.

“Developers will have access to all the relevant Government and Council agencies through a single point of contact.”

The Lord Mayor stressed the need for proper process with timely outcomes.

“It is not about cutting corners, but working together to cut time and red tape,” he said.

The Lord Mayor said it’s important for Council and Government to work together on this type of initiative.

“The NT Government and Darwin City Council are definitely on the same page,” he said.

Also present at the meeting were the Property Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Henderson said his Government is committed to promoting the Territory as a can-do place where businesses are supported.

“The one-stop shop builds on other Government initiatives to help developers including twice fortnightly meetings of the Development Consent Authority and parallel processing of approval and design processes for land release.”

Mr Henderson said the latest Sensis Business Index shows Territory businesses are the most optimistic in Australia with confidence running at four times the national average of 12 per cent.

“The survey also found Territory businesses have the best attitude to Government policies in the country. Fresh ideas such as the one-stop shop will add to that confidence,” he said.

Mr Henderson and Mr Sawyer said detailed plans for the one-stop shop for developers will be delivered to Government and Council in a month and consultation with developers will follow. The Desk is expected to be operating from June 2009.

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