Territory Labor Leader Michael Gunner today outlined a 10 point plan to create a culture of innovation in the Northern Territory.

"Nurturing creativity, encouraging collaboration and backing local innovators and entrepreneurs is the key to unlocking the Territory's economic potential," Mr Gunner said.

"Seizing the opportunities presented by an increasingly hi-tech global economy is crucial to creating jobs and prosperity.

"The Territory has some world class entrepreneurs and innovators across a wide range of industries and professions and I want to see a culture that celebrates them on par with our sport and artistic champions.

"Whether it’s engaging students in Arnhem Land through 3D printing or local start-up company Effusion winning global awards with its revolutionary Kinetic Manufacturing technology, a Territory Labor Government will celebrate, reward and support innovation and entrepreneurs.

Mr Gunner has tasked Shadow Minister for Information and Corporate Services, Lauren Moss, with developing policy which supports and drives innovation.

"We must back our own – both by creating a world class education system and by building and supporting local talent to prosper," Ms Moss said.

Mr Gunner said that Territory Labor recognises how tough it is to turn innovative ideas in to thriving businesses.

"That’s why today I am announcing a package of measures aimed at nurturing and unlocking creativity, encouraging and facilitating collaboration, and doing everything we can to ameliorate the final risk associated with innovative and creative new businesses," Mr Gunner said.

This package includes:
• An additional $1 million to Business Innovation Support Initiatives grants.
• Expand grants to include support through mentors and networks to take ideas through to commercialisation.
• Pitch up events with attached seed funding;
• A plan to work with business and industry to encourage "Angel Investors” into Territory innovation;
• An Innovator in Residence program;
• Expanding enterprise an innovation programs within schools, including $20 boss;
• Supporting the establishment of strategically located innovation hubs and co-creation spaces in partnership with the sector and educational institutions

"The Territory must nourish an innovation ecosystem where new, creative, technology rich businesses and industries can flourish.

"We are seeking input from local innovators, businesses and creative thinkers as we refine our plans over the coming months.”

**Media Contact:** Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794