

Edition 1 - January 2008 "Welcome"



**Chamber of
Commerce**
NORTHERN TERRITORY

On behalf of the Board, Regional Councils and staff of the Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory, I would like to welcome back all of our members and wish them the very best for the 2008 year.

The Chamber will continue this year to be “The Voice of Territory Business” supporting business organisations right across the Territory. In a year that is shaping up to see in a number of major changes in the Workplace Relations field, coupled with the spectre of an international slow down in the global economy and tighter fiscal policy both abroad and at home, there will be much that needs to be addressed.

As your Chamber, we will work hard to keep you informed of the changes as they occur and highlight for you those issues which we believe need your attention. Through our extensive network of contacts we will continue to lobby government at all levels to ensure that your issues and concerns are properly communicated and acted upon.

At the Federal level, the new industrial legislation which is due to be introduced into the February sitting of Parliament will require explanation and dissemination. The Australian Industrial Relations Commission review and consolidation of national awards will also have a major impact on the Northern Territory, given that it is proposed that the Retail Trades and Hospitality Industries are the first awards to be revised. New measures under the Federal Intervention are also due to be implemented this year which will effect the way that business interacts with remote communities.

In 2008 the Territory Government will introduce into Parliament the new Local Government Amalgamation legislation which will see the introduction of nine Regional Shires and four Municipal Councils for the entire Territory by the 1 July 2008. The new Worksafe Legislation, which was passed in November 2007, will also come into force in the first half of this year. Before that can occur, the current regulations need to be reviewed and additional measures written. The NT Government has given an undertaking that there would be extensive consultation in that process with Industry Associations and the Chamber stands ready to participate in that process.

The Chamber will again bring you a number of events and functions during the year. The Central Australian Expo, at the Alice Springs Convention Centre will be held from 29 February to 1 March. The NT Money Expo is currently being planned for 23 and 24 May at the Holiday Inn Esplanade. Our ever popular Business at Sunset series of networking functions is due to kick off within the next few weeks’ right across the Territory.

In all, 2008 has the makings of being a landmark year for business in the Territory. At the Chamber we stand willing and able to assist you with Workplace Relations, Training, OH&S, Events Management and many other services. So when you think “business”, think “The Voice of Territory Business”, The Chamber of Commerce NT.

Chris Young