



Dear Members,

Northern Territory Summit

On 25 March 2009, at the Darwin Convention Centre, the Chamber held its inaugural Northern Territory Summit. Business and political leaders shared thoughts and opinions towards:

- formulating recommendations by business to take to Government.
- providing the business view of the priorities to the community and government.

Among several topics, we talked about – the expansion of Darwin as a gas hub; the development of the Common User Facility in the Darwin Port precinct; housing; the cost of living; education; the Defence Support Industry; Renewable Energy; and Energy and Water.

I want to warmly thank everyone that contributed to the success of the Summit, including:

- Our sponsors – the Northern Territory Government, Inpex, Conoco Phillips, Digital Mojo, Optus, Bendigo Bank, the Northern Territory Industry Capability Network, Airnorth, Deloitte, Oamps, Sitzler and Enterprise Connect.
- Our Chairs and presenters - the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory the Hon. Paul Henderson; the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Terry Mills; Dr Chris Bigg, Greg Haigh and Stuart Ainslie.
- Our delegates.
- The Chief Executive and staff of the Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory, particularly Tianee Dohnt and Helena Cadwallader.

Why did we organise the Summit and what did we hope to achieve? The Chamber is the peak organisation representing Northern Territory business. Its mission is to promote the establishment and development of trade, commerce and industry. One of our goals is to identify, analyse and lead public discussion and debate on those issues that influence our business environment.

By holding the Summit, we created awareness and offered alternatives designed to bring the development of industry in the Territory to the forefront and address how we remain competitive on the global stage.

The Summit discussed the themes of – Infrastructure; Growing the Manufacturing base; and Lifestyle. Why did we choose these themes? Because these themes are fundamental to our economic sustainability and growth.

The Chamber believes it is essential that debate on these issues be both strong and heard by the community and government because they will help us determine how the Territory will look in 20 years time and assist us in shaping our destiny.

What will the Territory look like in 20 years?

- Darwin will be larger.
- The Territory's population will increase substantially.
- We will become an oil and gas hub with our own industrial super park.
- Many people will want to come here. Many businesses will want to invest here.
- Investment in renewable energy will expand. We will have significant industry in renewable sources of energy.
- We will become a State.

When you consider Darwin's location and the Northern Territory's natural resources and combine that with the spirit, courage, and entrepreneurial zeal of Territorians, you get things happening. That is what occurred at the NT Summit and, once again, on behalf the Chamber, I thank everyone involved in making it a success.

Territory 2030

Your Chamber has contributed to the Northern Territory Governments 20-year strategy, Territory 2030.

In May 2009, Greg Bicknell and I represented the Chamber at a Business Roundtable presided by Mr Bill Moss and Mr Steve Margetic of the Steering Committee. We provided the Steering Committee with submissions on behalf of the Chamber.

Delegation to Timor-Leste

Between 27 – 29 May 2009, Chief Minister Paul Henderson will be leading a delegation to Timor-Leste of 50 Territorians representing business, government and education.

The Manager of our Industry Councils, Greg Bicknell; Tradestart Export Advisor, Bernie Kelly; Chairman of the International Business Council, Sean Mahony; and I will be travelling to Dili as part of the delegation.

Many Northern Territory firms supply goods and services to the UN, NGO's, the international missions and projects in Timor-Leste. These have resulted in significant continuing orders of goods and services from Darwin suppliers and have added to economic activity and growth within the Northern Territory.

We expect the delegation will strengthen the links between businesses in Timor-Leste and the Northern Territory.

Growth in Membership numbers

Your Chamber is continuing to strengthen. The Chamber has seen growth with an increase in membership over the past 12 months of close to 15%, attributable to a number of factors, including brand awareness of the Chamber, the Chamber's contribution to debate and the level of service and value for money provided by the hardworking and loyal team at the Chamber to its members across all regions of the Northern Territory.

Sincerely,

George Roussos
President, Chamber of Commerce, Northern Territory