

\$100M RETAIL DEVELOPMENT FOR DARWIN AIRPORT



Tigor Developments Hills Homemaker Centre at Castlehill is an example of what we can expect from the new Darwin International Airport development.

DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT today announced it has reached a Heads of Agreement with leading retail developer Tigor Developments to build a \$100 million home and lifestyle centre on commercial land at Darwin International Airport.

With completion marked for the end of 2009, the project incorporates up to 45,000 square metres of prime retail space next to the recently opened Bunnings Warehouse.

The centre is being built on eight hectares of airport land at the major intersection of Bagot and McMillans Roads.

The announcement coincides with the appointment of Alan Revell as the airport's new Property Director, who says he was inspired to develop a new 90-hectare commercial site on prime urban land by the Territory's strong economic growth.

Australia China Business Council launched

CHIEF MINISTER and Minister for Asian Relations and Trade Clare Martin launched the Territory branch of the Australia China Business Council at Parliament House.

Ms Martin said trade with China represented a golden opportunity for the Territory in resources and services.

"We believe in engaging directly with China – for example, the Minister for Mines and Energy, Chris Natt, will later this week leave for a mining forum in Beijing," Ms Martin said.

Darwin-based broadcaster and economic forecaster Daryl Guppy will be the Acting President of the NT branch of the Council.

Record job ads for October

A RECORD 418 job advertisements were recorded last month, according to new ANZ figures.

The number of local jobs advertised in October increased by 12.4% compared to September this year and a significant 23.3% compared to October 2006.

The Territory continues to outperform national figures - in the year to October job advertisements increased by 7.3%, while nationally there was no increase.

Other figures showed retail trade grew by 10.7% in the year to September, with Territorians spending almost \$2.3 billion in the year to date.

The Territory is also continuing to outperform the rest of the nation in retail trade, with the national growth rate well below ours at 6.8%.

Minister meets Tiger Helicopter builder

MINISTER for Defence Support, Kon Vatskalis, met with the Australian manufacturer of the Tiger helicopter who accepted an invitation to visit Darwin in the New Year to hold face-to-face meetings with local industry.

Mr Vatskalis was briefed by the heads of Australian Aerospace in Brisbane who gave a detailed briefing on the manufacture and supply of the Tiger helicopter which will be based at Robertson Barracks from 2008.

"As the prime contractor for the life of this project, Australian Aerospace will be in need of various sub-contractors and has reiterated it is serious about engaging with local industry," says Mr Vatskalis.

Conferences highlight mining and Indigenous development

THE MINING THE TERRITORY conference will be held at SkyCity Casino Darwin from 13 to 15 November and is expected to attract 200 people.

Representatives from every significant Territory mining operation will be presenting talks and answering queries.

For further information phone 02 90804090.

Partners and Pathways, the third Indigenous Economic Forum will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Darwin on 14 and 15 November.

About 50 Indigenous businesses are expected to discuss building business partnerships, and developing economic capacity in remote communities.

Phone Kym Nolan on (08) 89996908.