



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



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ECONOMIC SUMMIT CHARTS COURSE FOR NEXT DECADE

Chief Minister Clare Martin said the two-day *2015: Moving the Territory Ahead Economic Development Summit*, which ended in Darwin today, would help create a blueprint for the Territory economy for the next 10 years.

“Over the past two days we have built on the strong foundations laid at the Territory’s first economic development summit of 2001,” Ms Martin said.

“It was pleasing that one of the central considerations of the summit was building a future for Territory youth. We’ve got Australia’s youngest population and the summit recognised the need to ensure they have the best in educational and training opportunities.

“The summit brought together representatives of business, unions and Government to consider how people right across the Territory could benefit from our economic growth over the next decade.

“The key issues identified both at the Summit and the earlier regional forums will become part of the development of the *2015: Moving the Territory Ahead* economic framework, which is expected to be completed by March next year.

“There has been a real focus over the last two days on finding the best ways to allow the regions to share in the Territory’s economic success story.

“Access Economics predicts we’ll have Australia’s highest growth rate of 4.5 per cent over the next five years so as the major centres move ahead we have to bring regional parts of Territory along with them.”

Over the last two days conference delegates have focussed on:

- Building and retaining a skilled and productive workforce
- Creating an attractive business environment
- Promoting investment
- Expanding markets
- Developing business and industry capacity and capability

“The Territory economic picture today is much brighter than it was before the initial summit of four years ago but it is still critical we continue looking to the future. We have a small economy and that presents a unique set of challenges, so we have to keep looking at the best ways for business and government to deal with those challenges in a co-ordinated way,” Ms Martin said.

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