



Delia Lawrie

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

29 October 2009

Minister Opens First Construction Industry Forum for Alice

The Minister for Infrastructure, Delia Lawrie, today officially opened the Department of Infrastructure's Construction Division Industry Forum at the Alice Springs Convention Centre.

More than 70 people attended the inaugural DPI forum 'Doing Business with the Construction Division' in Alice Springs which encourages project managers, architects, engineers, builders and civil contractors to discuss how to work in partnership to continue to build the Territory.

"This year's record investment by the Northern Territory Government represents opportunities and challenges for the construction sector in Central Australia that will be discussed at the forum," Ms Lawrie said.

"Alice Springs will benefit from more than \$70 million in major work funded by the Henderson Government this financial year."

Projects being delivered in Alice Springs include:

- \$21.7 million for Alice Springs Hospital including \$2.5 million for secure mental health facilities
- \$17.2 million for the Commonwealth's *Building Education Revolution*
- \$9.9 million for continuing sealing works on the Tanami Road
- \$7.6 million for continuing sealing works on Plenty Highway
- \$6 million for Alice Springs Police Station
- \$4.7 million to deliver a youth hub and upgrade Gillen and Anzac Hill middle school campuses, and
- \$3.2 million to continue the Ross Park Primary School upgrade.

"Importantly these projects will create and support jobs in Central Australia," Ms Lawrie said.

"Last financial year the Territory had a record infrastructure budget of \$870 million and Government working with industry delivered a record \$911 million spend in essential services, roads and education."

Ms Lawrie said the construction industry in the Territory continued to outperform the rest of the nation in light of the global recession with Access Economics prediction the Territory will lead the nation in economic growth over the next five years.

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