

## FIRST PROJECTS IN DARWIN MAKEOVER



'Ribbons of Green' are to surround the CBD under Creating Darwin's Future

Chief Minister Clare Martin has unveiled a \$7.5 million plan of action to make Darwin an even better place to live, work and visit with a series of key projects which make up the initial instalment of Creating Darwin's Future.

"We want a vibrant, modern, 24 hour CBD – and safe tropical suburbs based on friendly neighbourhoods," Ms Martin said.

The centrepiece will be a world class World War II Museum commemorating the Defence of Darwin, to be built adjacent to Parliament House, with construction to start next financial year. Other key projects include:

- Protecting and expanding green open spaces to surround the Darwin city peninsula, including \$6 million of improvements to Myilly Point Headland and Flagstaff Park.
- Amendments to the NT Planning Scheme to improve building design and the street/building interface
- \$250,000 to develop a Master Plan for State Square – a civic, heritage and community meeting space and focal point between the CBD and the Waterfront.
- \$1 million for landscaping of the entry points to the city where Daly Street and Tiger Brennan Drive intersect with McMin Street.
- Darwin City Council will implement a structured design style in streetscaping Darwin's CBD across four unique precincts, each with its own distinct look.

Public consultations on Creating Darwin's future began in October 2006 through shopping centre and market displays, targeted forums and a dedicated website.

### Property market stays buoyant

A quarterly research report by released by property consultants Colliers International predicts a solid outlook for the Darwin property market over the next six months.

June quarter figures show the price of units in both Darwin and Palmerston rose by 4 percent over the financial year, though unit sales are down.

Darwin's northern suburbs saw growth of 13.3 percent in the number of houses sold during the June quarter while the median house price rose by 2.2 percent.

### School apprenticeships prove popular

The take-up of School Based Apprenticeships is more than 30 times greater now than their launch six years ago, growing from five in 2001 to 155 this year.

Many of the Territory's 155 school based apprentices are training in skills shortage areas, including Certificate II in hospitality, child care and construction, and Certificate III in electrical, plumbing and gas fitting.

Year 11 and 12 students participating in the program combine their school study with on and off the job apprenticeship training.

Group Training NT directly employs about 80 percent of the current school based apprentices and lines up them up with host businesses.

### Tiger Brennan Drive extension underway

On a recent visit to Darwin, Prime Minister John Howard announced the Federal Government's decision to increase its contribution to the Tiger Brennan Drive project from \$13.7 million to \$36 million.

The announcement matches NT Government funding for the project, which involves an extension of the Auslink network to include a new road linked to Darwin's East Arm Port by extending Tiger Brennan Drive and duplicating Berrimah Road.

A \$10 million dollar tender will soon be advertised to redevelop the intersection of Wishart Rd and Berrimah Rd while the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is finalising site clearances for the Tiger Brennan extension.

### Info seminar on China trade mission

The International Business Council is leading an NT delegation to the China Export Commodities Fair in Guangzhou, from 13 to 21 October. An information seminar will be held on 13 September.

The NT Government is supporting the mission and participants may be eligible for assistance from the Trade Support Scheme. Contact Greg Bicknell on 8982 8100 or gbicknell@chambernt.com.au for more information.