

CRUISE SHIP SEASON BEGINS



Many of the 2000 plus passengers and crew aboard the cruise ship Amsterdam disembark and head for the Darwin Mall.

THE HOLLAND AMERICA Line's *Amsterdam* arrived in Darwin this week – the first large cruise ship for the start of the 07/08 season to arrive.

Tourism Minister Paul Henderson said at full capacity the *Amsterdam* carries over 2,000 passengers and crew.

“Our estimates are that this particular ship will generate around \$250 000 into the Territory economy,” he said.

“However, overall, the cruise ship industry generates an estimated \$18 million into our economy each year – and supports around 85 jobs.”

The Minister also announced funding for shuttle buses to ferry passengers from international cruise ships to the Darwin CBD for this year's cruise ship season.

The NT Government and Darwin City Council will each contribute \$25 000 to the venture for the 2007/08 season.

Mr Henderson said it is expected that the \$4.5 new Cruise Ship Terminal will be completed and operating in time for the start of the 08/09 cruise season.

Freightlink produces record growth

A SURGE to record levels of both bulk and general freight in the financial year ending 30 June 2007 continues to demonstrate the long term potential of the Adelaide to Darwin railway and its contribution to the economic development of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

During the period revenues from freight operations grew from \$50.7 million in 2005/2006 to \$68.3 million in 2006/2007 - a 35 per cent increase.

For the same period net tonnes carried increased from 668,081 tonnes to 1,112,885 - an increase of 67 per cent.

The company has reported an operating profit before interest, tax and depreciation of \$16.5 million.

“Having recently secured our third minerals haulage contract and having converted over 90 per cent of the general freight between Adelaide and Darwin to rail we are looking forward to a new growth phase for the company” Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Fullerton said.

The figures come on the heels of an agreement between Freightlink and Altona Resources that will see the rail link to Darwin used for Altona's coal to liquids power project at Arckaringa, South Australia.

Haulage company to set up in Darwin

HAULMARK TRAILERS (Australia), has confirmed it intends to establish a multi-million dollar facility at Darwin's new Defence Support Hub after completion of successful contract negotiations with the Commonwealth.

Haulmark Trailers (Australia) is the preferred tenderer to deliver trailers to Defence under the Land 121 Project.

The company has registered interest in almost four hectares of land within the Defence Support Hub and plans to construct facilities worth around \$10 million.

The NT Government has identified 60 hectares of land near Robertson Barracks for the development of the Defence Support Hub, which when established, will facilitate industry development and the co-location of industry capability.

NT economy outpaces nation

THE TERRITORY'S economy is the fastest growing in Australia with the dollar value of the NT's gross state product rising by 7.5 per cent in 2006-2007, compared with the national figure of 2.8 per cent.

The figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics also showed that unemployment fell throughout the NT.

Territory Trade Mission to Mining Indonesia in full swing

THE TERRITORY'S largest trade mission to the massive Mining Indonesia Expo includes 21 business people representing 10 Territory companies.

Participating companies include Bridge Toyota, Coffey International, Linetec Engineering, DEEDS heavy vehicle maintenance, Thinc Projects, Mintech Chemical Industries, PDF Toll, Swire Shipping, Perkins Shipping and Total Steel (of WA). Also attending are the Chamber of Commerce of the NT and the NT Industry Capability Network.

The event runs from 31 October to 3 November in Jakarta's International Exhibition Centre at Kemayoran.