

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY****WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Chief Minister

**Territory Development - Trade Route Links**

1. What strategic plans were put in place during 2004-5 to accelerate and promote the AustralAsia trade route and develop new shipping links and new customer bases?
2. What were the outcomes of those strategic plans?

**ANSWER**

1. In February 2005, the Northern Territory Government released its "Growing our Trade Route" strategy.

This whole-of-government strategy identifies eight focal opportunities for growing the new trade route and lists associated strategic priorities/actions that will be pursued during 2005-2006 to realise these opportunities.

Key opportunity areas include: securing new international shipping links, increasing supply base activities for the off-shore gas industry, securing new bulk mineral exports, further development of the Darwin Business Park, and developing stronger regional freight hubs in Katherine and Tennant Creek.

The Department of the Chief Minister continues to focus on the "Growing our Trade Route" strategy. A new international shipping link between Indonesia and Darwin is still under investigation and significant inbound volumes to commit a service have been identified. Opportunities for export on the return shipping sector northbound is the challenge and the focus on bulk minerals continues as the priority.

2. Shipping Outcomes – Hai Win Shipping have established a monthly direct shipping service between Shanghai and Darwin.

In September 2005, the first trial of a Surabaya to Darwin service was completed by Swire Shipping and Toll Holdings. This trial involved the discharge of 54 containers of paper product from Surabaya at East Arm Port. These containers were subsequently unpacked at the Toll facility in the Darwin Business Park and then re-packed into empty domestic containers for distribution across Australia by the road and rail networks. Commercial-in-confidence negotiations are continuing with various private sector players with a view to establishing a regular Surabaya-Darwin shipping service during 2006.

Bulk Minerals Trade Outcomes – New bulk handling facilities are currently under construction at East Arm and are expected to be operational by April 2006. These facilities will service an initial 650 000 tonnes per annum of bulk manganese exports from the Bootu Creek development (near Tennant Creek) to China. Potentially they can also service over one million tonnes of iron ore exports from the Frances Creek deposit – which Territory Iron are currently looking to develop and have operational by the end of 2006/early 2007.