

BUSINESS NEWS



Kerrylee Pike and Luke Myall from HiQA Geotechnical at the Telstra Business Awards last year, where the company picked up a gong

Picture: MICHAEL FRANCHI

Business health check helps

Chinese investment on forum's agenda

A FORUM looking at Chinese investment through the Northern Territory and South Australian corridor will be held in Darwin on Friday.

The Property Council of Australia NT Division will host the breakfast event at Skycity Casino.

Property Council NT executive director Ruth Palmer said Chinese investment was a topical and complex subject.

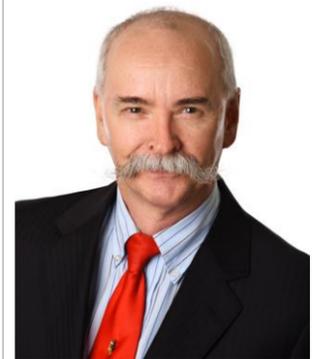
"For a long time Darwin has been touted as the gateway to Asia," she said. "Most people would concede the movement of Chinese investment in Australia has shifted from the Top End and Central Australia in favour of the eastern seaboard."

Partner in Charge of Finlaysons Lawyers and event MC Martin Kelly said there had been instances of great success in both the NT and SA on the back of Chinese investment.

"Can a continuation of Chinese investment be part of a broader solution to drive both the NT and SA economies onwards and upwards?" he said.

"Is Darwin the urbanised capital city it needs to be to attract investment from Chinese investors, tourists and students? What can the NT and SA governments achieve by working together on developing the Central Australia region to further attract Chinese investment?"

An expert panel consisting of the president of the NT Branch Australia China Business Council Daryl Guppy, Landbridge vice-president Mike Hughes and Haneco Lighting and Greateon managing director Nicho Teng will explore the issues.



Daryl Guppy

ASHLEY MANICAROS

GOING through a business health check as part of the nomination process for the Telstra Business Awards is a valuable benefit for any business, the 2017 Telstra Northern Territory Business of the Year winner believes.

HiQA Geotechnical managing director Luke Myall said his business learned a lot from the experience and would encourage other businesses considering entering the awards to do so.

"It took about 60 hours to put together our nomination but I thought my entry was quite thorough," he said.

"We participated in the 2015 awards and were a finalist that time.

"For me we learned a lot from that experience. They do a business health check and outline where you are achieving well and outline where you need to improve on.

"The health check is part of nominations — not just if you are a finalist. So we thought it was worthwhile just for that."

HiQA Geotechnical has

grown from a one-person show in 2008 to about 45 staff during peak periods. It has laboratories in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine and last year opened a Tennant Creek office.

HiQA Geotechnical delivers testing and sampling for companies operating within the construction, defence and mining industries across the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

"We didn't enter the 2016 awards because we had a lot of work to do with the business," Mr Myall said.

"In 2017 I really wanted to see how we improved. I was hoping to win the Medium Business Award category so to win overall was a bit unexpected."

Nominations for the 2018 Telstra Business Awards are now open. They will close on March 28.

There are four main categories, including one for newcomers and not-for-profits.

More information on the awards can be found at www.telstrabusinessawards.com.

Spotlight on resources

CENTRAL Australia will be the focus of two key resource sector seminars in March.

The annual geoscience exploration seminar and the Central Australia regional mining seminar will be held in the week starting March 19.

AGES is a technical conference that presents a unique opportunity to access the latest in

fresh exploration ideas and geoscientific data from the Territory.

It also gives attendees a chance to network with colleagues who share an interest in the discovery and development of the Territory's minerals and oil and gas resources.

Nearly 200 people attended the event in 2017.

The regional mining seminar provides an update on major projects emerging in Central Australia and the Barkly regions, focusing on contractor opportunities, timelines and potential employment.

The events will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton, in Alice Springs.

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