14 April 2004

Martin discusses proposal for major Chinese educational facility and student exchange

Media Releases
Media Release Archive
Speeches

This page is maintained by the Office of the Chief Minister

A prominent Chinese businessman with links to the Territory says he wants to look at building a facility to house Chinese students interested in studying in the Territory.

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, met with developer Professor Chunlu Fei in Shanghai today during a tour of his latest business - the development of ANTING Newton, a mini integrated city - to discuss his proposal.

“His proposal is to build a facility to house Chinese students interested in studying overseas, in the Territory,” she said.

“Professor Fei is confident that up to 4,000 students could be interested in studying in Darwin at both secondary and tertiary level, and he wants to build a major facility to house students.”

Ms Martin said that the Professor believes the project could see thousands of Chinese family and friends visit the students each year providing a strong link between the Territory and China.

“This is a very innovative idea and one that is worth exploring simply for the significant economic spin-offs that it would create,” she said.

“A student housing development of this size would create construction business while the tourism and social links that would be developed between the students, families and the Territory would be significant.

“I was happy to discuss this proposal with Professor Fei and Government will continue to explore whether it is both suitable for the Territory and can be delivered.”

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also viewed a 200,000 seat race track currently being built in Shanghai saying that their could be an opportunity to develop a unique sporting tourism link.

“Negotiations are currently underway for the V8 Supercars to be held in Shanghai in the near future and, if successful, that round will most likely follow on from the Darwin’s Hidden Valley event,” she said.

“Sports tourism is a very popular way to travel and the potential is there for airlines to put on charter flights for motor sport fans from China to experience the Darwin round and Australian fans - and V8 teams and officials - to go to Darwin and then continue onto China.

“The V8’s evoke a real passion in their fans and - like the Sri Lankans supporters that will visit the Territory for the Test match later this year - this could be a new niche travel
market that we can explore and develop.”