Police Minister Paul Henderson today announced the Government would implement the O’Sullivan Report, with a $75 million "Building our Police Force" Plan - the largest ever injection of resources into the NT Police Force.

"Building our Police Force" will deliver 200 extra police on the street by the end of 2006 and the maximum possible level of recruitment.

"The O’Sullivan Report provides an independent assessment of the needs of our Police Force and its 112 recommendations provide a roadmap for building the strength and capacity of the NT Police," Mr Henderson said.

The key findings of the O’Sullivan Report are:

1. The NT Police Force was run down over a decade, with underfunding and staff shortages;
2. A recruitment freeze from 1991 to 1994 has left NT Police with a shortage of experienced Sergeants;
3. The number of police available for operations has always been less than the number of police positions recorded "on paper";
4. Long term, police recruitment rates have failed to take into account the rate of police leaving the Force;
5. The maximum number of constables the NT Police Force can recruit and train each year is 120;
6. The NT Police Force is led by a professional Commissioner and staffed by dedicated men and women.

"The combination of underfunding and the previous CLP Government’s recruitment freeze has meant our police have not been able to deliver many of the basic services expected by Territorians and the Martin Labor Government," said Mr Henderson.

"The Martin Government’s $75 million "Building our Police Force" Plan (03/04 $9.8m; 04/05 $16.4m; 05/06 $20.5m; 06/07 $28.3m) will see:

- 200 more police on the beat by the end of 2006;
- Recruitment and training of the maximum number of constables – 120 each year;
- Doubling the number of constables entering the NT Police Force;
- More Territorians recruited to the NT Police Force;
- More police back to core policing duties;
- More police patrols;
- More than 80 extra civilian support staff to get police back on the beat;
- Improved living and working conditions to keep our experienced
police in the Territory.

"The bottom line is this Government wants to see more police on the streets, faster police response times and improved levels of service for Territorians generally," said Mr Henderson.

"That’s why the Government commissioned a report from former Commissioner Jim O’Sullivan, an outstanding policing expert.

"The O’Sullivan Report is the most comprehensive of its kind, and includes feedback from more than 1200 Territorians, including hundreds of police officers.

"With the report as a roadmap, the Government is delivering the largest ever injection of resources into the NT Police Force to create a safer community for all Territorians."

The Government’s response to the O’Sullivan Report, and the full report, can be accessed at www.policeplan.nt.gov.au