$482 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND

TO BUILD THE TERRITORY’S FUTURE

The Martin Government will spend $482 million in cash on infrastructure in Budget 2006, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns said.

In addition, $100 million will be spent on the Darwin Waterfront and Convention Centre.

“This brings to $2.7 billion the total amount of cash invested in infrastructure by the Martin Government since taking office in 2001,” Dr Burns said. “This is an unprecedented and unmatched level of investment.”

Dr Burns said around 5200 jobs would result from the Government’s infrastructure spend this year.

“That’s jobs for builders, labourers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and many other trades,” he said. “This money also flows through the rest of the economy, supporting jobs in retail and other small business.

“The Government’s infrastructure expenditure is spread right across the Territory and is allocated in a way that ensures all contractors – big or small - get an opportunity for work.”

Highlights of works that are ongoing this year include:

- $4.3 million for completion this year of a new fire station in Marrara;
- $5.8 million for the completion of the home of soccer;
- $9.3 million for extensions at Palmerston high school;
- major roadworks across the Territory, including $13.9 million for the Mereenie Loop, $4.5 million for the Litchfield Loop, and $29 million for the Victoria Highway.

New works this year include:

- $4 million for new Government employee housing or replacement housing;
- $1.3 million for the Maryvale Road, south of Alice Springs;
- $10 million for middle years school infrastructure;
- $1.1 million for remedial works at Fisherman’s Wharf.

“Combined with the very significant level of private investment in infrastructure, the Martin Government is confident of sustained development throughout the Territory for the foreseeable future,” Dr Burns said.