15 July 2008

**Bus Safety Boosted with New Transit Security Officers on Duty**

New Transit Security Officers with greater powers to tackle antisocial behaviour have started work on the Darwin and Palmerston bus network.

Transport Minister Delia Lawrie said the Territory Government’s $750,000 investment will boost bus safety.

“We’re cracking down on antisocial behaviour on our public bus network – more Transit Security Officers are on duty with more powers,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Transit Security Officers now have the power to restrain and detain people so they can be taken into custody.

“Seven full time Transit Security Officers are now patrolling the bus network and working with police to crack down on antisocial behaviour.

“Transit Security Officers will ride on the bus network, target the bus interchanges and have new vehicles and uniforms making them a highly visible presence on the bus network.

“The first Transit Security Officers were introduced by the Territory Government in 2006 - they’ve been successful and we’ve given them extra powers and additional resources to do their job.”

Seven full time Transit Security Officers and a new supervisor position have been recruited.

Over the past five weeks the new Transit Security Officers have undergone intensive training program to prepare them for their new positions and powers.

“We’ve already given them the capacity to issue trespass and infringement notices to stop problem passengers entering the bus network,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This builds on the $800,000 for 245 CCTV cameras on buses and at interchanges to catch people that cause problems.

“There are also tougher penalties for assaults on all bus drivers. The new Transit Security Officers are creating a safer bus network for Territorians.”

**Contact:** Nicole Manison 8901 4138 or 0448 693 279