Transport Minister Delia Lawrie today said a comprehensive CCTV system in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston is a step closer with tenders called tomorrow.

“The Henderson Government is tough on crime – that’s why we will roll out a comprehensive CCTV system in Darwin CBD, Casuarina and Palmerston CBD,” Ms Lawrie said.

“People should be able to go about their daily business without being subjected to anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

“CCTV networks act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and help police catch offenders.”

Ms Lawrie said the CCTV system would complement existing CCTV networks to increase public safety and crackdown on crime in hotspots in Darwin CBD, Casuarina and Palmerston CBD.

“The CCTV system will enable police to conduct virtual patrols using specific capabilities on the cameras of known public hotspots for antisocial behaviour and criminal activity,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The system will contain a number of Pan Tilt and Zoom cameras connected to three main surveillance nodes in Darwin CBD, Casuarina and Palmerston CBD.

“Surveillance nodes will be located at the police stations in these areas while a real time control room will be set up at the Peter McAulay Centre where operators will be able to monitor the cameras and conduct virtual patrols.

“The Northern Territory Police will use specifically trained auxiliaries in the operations centre, co-located with the emergency call centre for dispatching police quickly.”

The CCTV system – which is estimated to include between 40 and 110 cameras depending on the final design - is expected to be operating by June 2009

Ms Lawrie said the Australian Government’s contribution to the project was very important.

“Member for Solomon Damian Hale has been a big supporter of this project and the Australian Government has committed funding of more than $2 million to the project,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Henderson Government is also committing funding of up to $3.1 million over three years.”

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563