OPENING OF 1978 CABINET RECORDS

EMBARGO

Strictly embargoed – this information is NOT for release until 1 January 2009

On 1 January 2009, the first Cabinet records created under Northern Territory self-government will become open for public access.

The Acting Chief Minister Marion Scrymgour today inspected the Cabinet documents from 1978 which will become publicly available on New Year’s Day.

Ms Scrymgour said the documents are an important part of the Territory’s history.

“The documents are now publicly available because of the Information Act, which the Labor government introduced in 2003,” said Ms Scrymgour.

“The Information Act was an early priority of the Labor Government to put in place more transparent and open government.

“In addition to giving the Territory its first freedom of information legislation, the Act requires that most archived Northern Territory Government records become available for public access once those records reach 30 years of age.

“On 1 January 2009 government records created in 1978, including the first records of the Northern Territory Cabinet, will turn 30 years of age.

“Thirty years ago Paul Everingham was the Chief Minister, Darwin was being rebuilt following Cyclone Tracy and the Aboriginal Land Rights Act was in its infancy.

“A lot has changed in the Territory and I’m sure the Cabinet documents will make some interesting reading,” said Ms Scrymgour.


Members of the public will also be able to view these records at the Northern Territory Archives Service in Darwin.

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Note: If you require a copy of the CD or any other related documents before 1 January 2009, please contact Chris Stewart from the Department of the Chief Minister on 0447 081 925 or email: christopher.stewart@nt.gov.au