Stable Government Delivering for Territorians

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said today changes to Parliamentary procedures would begin this week as part of a new political culture embodied in the agreement he had reached with Independent Member for Nelson, Gerry Wood.

Mr Henderson said as part of the reforms the Government would stop presenting Ministerial reports to free up Parliamentary time and discuss further possible reforms.

“This is a great opportunity – to make Government more open, accountable and inclusive,” Mr Henderson said.

“We will continue to introduce reforms to achieve this goal.

“Issues to be discussed will include the length of adjournments and the number of questions asked in question time by non-Government members.”

Mr Henderson said the agreement with Gerry Wood would allow his Government to continue to deliver on the agenda that Territorians expected to be delivered.

“One of my priorities has been to continue my Government’s strong economic management that is helping the Territory to withstand the impact of the global financial crisis better than other jurisdictions in Australia,” Mr Henderson said.

“This includes cutting red tape for business, reforming the tender process to assist local companies and rolling out the Australian Government’s funding for school infrastructure projects as quickly as possible.

“We are also continuing to pursue export and investment opportunities – highlighted by the Inpex project - to protect jobs for Territorians and opportunities for Territory business.”

Mr Henderson said the Government would also continue to work in cooperation with the Australian Government to Close the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

“This includes providing housing through the $670 million SIHIP program and improving services and infrastructure in remote communities through the Working Future policy,” he said.

Mr Henderson said his Government also had a record level of funding for infrastructure projects.

“This includes major projects such as the Tiger Brennan Drive extension, expansion of our Port facilities and upgrading and building new school facilities across the Territory.

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