The Northern Territory Cabinet records from 1980 were made available to the public today.

Leader of Government Business, Chris Burns, said the documents are available to the public under the Information Act which the Labor Government introduced in 2003 to put in place more transparent and open government.

“These documents are an important part of the Territory’s history and it’s appropriate that all Territorians have access to them,” said Dr Burns.

“Thirty years ago the Territory was a very different place, Darwin was still in the process of rebuilding following Cyclone Tracy and the Territory Government was in its infancy after only two years of self government.

“The key agenda items of 1980 included the development of Palmerston and establishment of the Northern Territory University (Charles Darwin University).

“Cabinet decided to locate the Northern Territory University at Palmerston, and today it has grown into a significant tertiary education institution.

“Thirty years on and Palmerston is one of Australia’s fastest growing cities with four new suburbs now under development that will eventually be home to 15,000 more Territorians.

“A decision to build a new Police Headquarters in Berrimah was also made in 1980.

“The year saw the opening of the Alice Springs Court House, the Casuarina Hospital (now the Royal Darwin Hospital), Dickward Drive and the Duck Pond in Darwin, and the Verburg Bridge in Adelaide River.

“The population of the Territory in 1980 was 112,000 people, today about 100 000 more people live in the Territory,” Dr Burns said.

People can go online to access selected cabinet decisions at www.cabinetrecords.nt.gov.au or gain full access to the 1980 Cabinet Records via appointment at the NT Archives Service Public Search Room in Darwin phone 8924 7677 or email nt.archives@nt.gov.au.

**Media contact:** Nicole Manison 0448 693 279