MILLS, BARNETT HOLD NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN TALKS

Monday June 18th, 2012

Opposition Leader Terry Mills and Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett have held talks aimed at forging stronger links between the two economies.

The meeting, held in Perth this morning, aimed to end more than a decade of neglect in the Territory-Western Australian cross-border relations.

“This was about getting the relationship working again,” Mr Mills said.

“The Territory and northern Western Australia have economic, geological and climatic similarities and a Country Liberals Government would work to maximise our similarities.

“The Henderson Government’s apathetic approach to opportunities coming from Stage 2 of the Ord River Irrigation Scheme has been extremely disappointing and short-sighted.

“The Ord provides enormous opportunities for northern Australia and the Territory Government should be working alongside Western Australia to maximise the benefits of the scheme.”

Mr Mills and Mr Barnett also talked about the damage done to live cattle exports in northern Australia stemming from the Commonwealth’s Indonesian export ban and the Premier recognises the Territory’s strategic role in strengthening relations with that country.

“Linkages between the Territory and northern Western Australia need to be
strengthened and I look forward to more discussions when Mr Barnett visits here next month."

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