MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

TERRITORY GROWING TIES TO ASIA

29 November, 2012

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Adam Giles said the Top End is further on track to becoming Australia’s major gateway to Asia with today’s passing of the Rail Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Bill 2012.

Mr Giles said the passage of the inaugural Bill he introduced to the NT Legislative Assembly will directly support two key priorities of his portfolios – safety and economic benefit for the Territory.

The rail regulation in the Northern Territory will be undertaken by a National Rail Regulator as of 20 January, 2013.

“This reform legislation will cut red tape and costs for rail operators and improve productivity and safety for the rail industry,” Mr Giles said.

“The National Rail Regulator will provide a seamless framework for all Australian rail operators to access Asia through the Darwin Port.

“By having a single National Regulator, rail operators will no longer have to apply for accreditation in each jurisdiction in which they operate.

The Northern Territory and South Australia are the only jurisdictions to already adopt such legislation.

In time, the National Regulator will assume responsibility for rail regulation throughout Australia. This effectively allows industry to deal with one regulator, rather than eight.

“This means rail operators will not need to abide by several different laws or pay multiple fees for what is essentially the same activity,” Mr Giles said.

“This is a further green light to all Australian transport operators the Territory is the primary gateway to Asia and it is open for business.”

Media Contact:
Bruce Cutler 0457509133

www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801