Peter Styles
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Racing Gaming and Licensing

Statutory Manager exploring best way forward for Darwin North RSL

18 July 2016

The Northern Territory Government is committed to the future of the Territory's RSL Clubs but the best and only way forward for the Darwin North RSL is to ensure processes relating to its external administration are allowed to proceed without any outside interference.

Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles said the club was in a position where there were serious concerns about its ability to pay its debts which meant the only way forward was external administration.

“The appointment of a Statutory Manager to administer the club is not only in the public interest, but is also in the members' interest and most important of all, the people who are owed money by the Darwin North RSL,” Mr Styles said.

"It is vital the Statutory Manager is now allowed to do his job without fear or favour.

"We have a rich and proud military history and as such, RSL Clubs are treasured by the community.

“The NT Government, through a variety of agencies including the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Business has provided a great deal of support to the Darwin North RSL including; assistance from NT Government Business Development Officers and half a million dollars to upgrade its bowling greens.

"On 1 July 2016, the Director-General of Licensing, following an investigation into the affairs of the Darwin North RSL, appointed Stuart Reid of Meertens Chartered Accountants as the Statutory Manager who is currently exploring options for the best way forward for the Darwin North RSL.

"Since that appointment he has had full control of the Association in order to try and work out a way to save it, as well as ensure its financial and legal obligations are met, including under the Associations Act.

"Actions that will or will not be taken by the Statutory Manager are decisions for him alone and it would be completely inappropriate for the NT Government, myself as Minister or any politician or political party to interfere in this important process.”

**Media Contact:** Rebecca Barr 0407 284 066