Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today said that she was very pleased that the NT Government's nomination for the Kakadu Board of Management - Marilynne Paspaley - had been accepted by the Federal Minister for the Environment Dr David Kemp.

“Marilynne is a successful businesswoman and is known for getting things done - we are very pleased that she has been accepted for this important position,” she said.

“Importantly, this is the first time that a NT Government nominee has been accepted by the Board of Kakadu - a Federal Government controlled park - and is a sign of the improved relationships that the Martin Government has developed with the traditional owners of Kakadu.”

Ms Martin said the Board had asked Government to nominate a person with business acumen and a sound knowledge of corporate governance - with Marilynne Paspaley we have found such a person.

“The Paspaley family's success was built on taking a product and showing the rest of the world that we can do it better than anyone,” she said.

“We believe that Marilynne will bring this similar drive and vision to the Kakadu - a park and product that has not been properly promoted or developed.”

Marilynne is an Executive Director of the Paspaley Group of Companies, publisher of the company magazine, has established numerous retail networks, honouree of the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World and a former actress with national credits.”

The Paspaley Group of Companies have interests primarily in pearling but also technology, ship building, engineering, aviation and rural property.

The Chief Minister said that Ms Paspaley would report directly to her and the appointment will assist the Northern Territory in many ways. The Board meets four times a year.

“This announcement follows Wednesday's appointment by the NT and Federal Governments of John Morse Am - the man that masterminded the tourism strategy for the Sydney Olympics - to develop a new vision for Kakadu National Park .

“We are serious about building Kakadu National Park into the asset we know it can be,” Ms Martin said.

“My Government has allocated record funding for NT tourism in the 2004/05 budget and we are also working with the Commonwealth to promote tourism assets that they control such as Kakadu.”