In an historic moment in Territory politics, the Government today announced that Parliament would be held in Alice Springs for the first time since self-government.

The Alice Springs session of Parliament will be held on April 29, 3 and May 1 2003.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said the announcement was not only historic but also extremely important, because many Territorians outside Darwin still felt the Berrimah line was a fact of life.

"Taking Parliament to Alice Springs is clear evidence that this Government is committed to giving more people direct access to their political representatives," she said.

"Parliament is the people’s house. It is where elected Members are expected to represent Territorian’s interests and make decisions for their benefit.

"So in a place like the Territory, where the population is spread far and wide, it is only right that Parliament not be stuck in one place.

"I'm proud that this Government has done more in the past 6 months to break down barriers and govern for all Territorians, than the previous Government achieved in almost 27 years."

Parliament will be held in Alice Springs annually with the inaugural session to be held at the new convention centre.

Ms Martin said today’s announcement follows Government’s recently launched Community Cabinet program, which will see at least 30 Cabinet meetings held outside Darwin, during Labor’s first term.

"Community Cabinet meetings will be held in regional and remote areas including Tennant Creek, Yulara, Borroloola, Wadeye, Katherine, Kalkaringi and Groote Eylandt - with the first one held in Nhulunbuy earlier this month.

"Darwin based Cabinet meetings will also be held away from Parliament House in suburbs and a meeting is planned for Palmerston in June.

"These meetings will not be one-offs as this Government believes it’s important for Cabinet Ministers and senior executives to hear to all Territorians ideas and proposals and have a firm understanding of what concerns them."

"We will work in partnership with the community to help build a better Territory."