Police Minister Paul Henderson will leave Darwin this afternoon for the Australasian Police Ministers Conference being held in Hobart tomorrow.

Amongst the agenda items is a briefing from the Commonwealth on the current counter-terrorism environment in Australia.

“The Territory Government and the NT Police are investing in counter terrorism capacity, including equipment and training, and it is vital to keep abreast of national issues,” Mr Henderson said.

Mr Henderson said he looked forward to progressing the establishment of a national child sex offender database at the meeting.

“In October, the Northern Territory passed new legislation to help protect our children from convicted child sex offenders, including the establishment of a register to record the movements and personal details of these offenders,” Mr Henderson said.

“Work is now underway to implement the new scheme, and I am optimistic the Territory’s database will be operational early in 2005.

“A national register in which all jurisdictions participate is vitally important to track these offenders across borders, and news to date is that other states are at various stages of introducing the scheme.

“I’ll be pressing the need for all states to come on line as soon as possible.”

Mr Henderson is due to arrive back in Darwin on Thursday night.