Racing, Gaming and Licensing Minister, Syd Stirling, has welcomed the outcome of today’s Australasian Racing Ministers Conference where state and territory Ministers unanimously decided to establish a national Task Force to examine cross-border betting and its impact on the Australian racing industry.

The Task Force, to be made up of a Government and Racing Industry representative from each state and territory, will produce a report for Racing Ministers by October the 31st, 2002.

"The decision by state and territory Ministers to look at cross-border betting issues in a constructive and objective way was one of the best things that has happened for both Territory and Australian racing for many, many years", Mr Stirling said.

"Establishing the Task Force finally recognises the existence of corporate bookmakers in the Australian Racing Industry.

"It also provides the long-awaited vehicle to objectively assess their impact on the Australian racing landscape.

"The Task Force provides the Territory with the opportunity to put the full facts in relation to corporate bookmaking in the NT on the table at a national level."