Alice Springs residents will soon have a $150 000 2.5m wide shared footpath/cyclepath stretching from Barrett Drive to the eastern Golf Course residential area along Stephens Road announced today by Minister for Central Australia Dr Peter Toyne.

Dr Toyne said he was pleased to be able to make the $150 000 pledge as part of the rollout of Government’s 2002/03 budget initiatives.

"This is a very welcome announcement for the residents of the area with the need for such a path first mooted back in 1996 in the ‘Alice Springs Bike Plan’ report.

"The path construction will enable the more than 300 residents of the area to walk and cycle safe from vehicle traffic, and the fear of treading on snakes during the summer time.

Dr Toyne said along with improving amenity for the local residents, the new path will also greatly improve access for tourists to the Casino and Convention Centre.

"This initiative is an example of the Government’s desire to work closely with Local Government to further the development of Alice Springs for the benefit of Centralians.

The funding forms part of the 2002/03 Minor New Works program and construction is set to commence in this financial year.