Chief Minister, Clare Martin today officially opened City Edge Apartments, an exciting new development on the corner of Pedler and Nicker Crescent, in Alice Springs.

"This development has shown the demand for quality apartments in the Alice and is a true success story for the developers – it's my pleasure to officially open this quality private housing," she said.

Formerly known as Cawood Court and used as Housing Commission housing, the Government decided to sell the facility in 2001 and invest the money into NT public housing. Ms Martin said that Australian Property Projects (APP) were awarded the development and must be congratulated for their vision and commitment to the region.

"They not only offered a good price, but were prepared to invest in significant site enhancement - one of the fundamental criteria of the selection process," she said.

"There was significant outcry at the time, some based on genuine concerns and some whipped up by political motivations.

"We were told that it would be ‘tomorrow's slums today’, would degrade the area and push housing prices down - one Opposition member was reported in the press saying ‘they might tizz it up a bit but it would basically be the same’.

"As you can see today those predictions couldn't have been more wrong - this is a modern, attractive development and almost all of the units have already been sold.

"It is amazing just how different it now looks - 7 units removed and replaced with a pool, gymnasium and pool room, beautiful landscaping and very creative architecture. Importantly, almost all materials and labour were purchased locally."

The Chief Minister also officially toured, opened and presented the best display award at the 2003 Alice Springs Business Expo at the Convention Centre.

"Jobs and education are this Government’s highest priorities and we support Alice Springs business and this important event," she said.

"I congratulate the Alice Springs Branch of the NT Chamber of Commerce and look forward to another successful expo - I am sure new networks will be developed and opportunities unearthed."