The Territory’s first ever freedom of information laws commence operation on Territory Day tomorrow.

Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said tomorrow is a historic day both for 25 years of Self-Government and for the commencement of FOI, symbolic of the new approach to Government in the Territory.

"From tomorrow Territorians will for the first time enjoy the same rights to access government information that other Australians have enjoyed for up to 20 years.

"Freedom of information moves the Territory into a new era of accountability and good governance.

"These new laws really belong to Territorians with the development of the laws receiving enormous public support and input.

"The Territory’s Information Act is unique in Australia because it combines freedom of information principles, privacy laws and record management principles," Dr Toyne said.

From July 1 Territorians can apply to access government information and personal records held by Government agencies.

An independent Information Commissioner, Mr Peter Shoyer, has been appointed to oversee the implementation and use of the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for:

- conducting independent reviews of agency decisions about access to government information,
- conducting independent reviews of agency decisions on amendments of personal information, and
- responding to complaints about breaches of information privacy principles.

Dr Toyne said FOI is a key plank of the Martin Government’s good governance policy and delivers on an election commitment to give Territorians the same rights as other Australians.