DEFENCE SUPPORT HUB FOR DARWIN

Defence Support Minister Paul Henderson said he was hopeful tomorrow’s Federal Budget will contain funding for a Defence Support Hub to be established beside Robertson Barracks.

41 of the 59 Abrams Tanks being purchased by the Australian Defence Force will be stationed in Darwin, with the full contingent to be in place by 2007.

“The Martin Government is working closely with industry to target the upcoming through-life support of the Abrams Tanks, to secure jobs and contracts here in the Territory and not see contracts head south,” Mr Henderson said.

“Maintenance and support of the tanks is estimated to be worth more than $10M a year, and establishing a support precinct close to the Barracks would increase the opportunity for Territory businesses to secure much of this work.

“In addition to securing Abrams-related contracts, a Defence Support Hub would also deliver increased opportunities for Territory business for support and maintenance contracts on other Defence equipment.

“Considerable work has already been done by the Territory Government and industry to develop the concept of a precinct, and I have been lobbying Federal Defence Minister, Senator Robert Hill, for more than a year for Federal approval to use the Commonwealth land beside the Barracks for this purpose.

“I am hopeful tomorrow’s Federal Budget will give the green light for this exciting project.”

Contact: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389