GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU

CLP Leader Terry Mills today joined the Governor General of Australia, his Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, Defence Minister Senator Robert Hill and other dignitaries in farewelling the defence personnel who left onboard HMAS Kanimbla from Darwin’s Fort Hill Wharf today bound for some of the worst affected areas of Indonesia following the Boxing Day Tsunami.

“It was uplifting to be in the company of these Australian Defence Force personnel. They represent a body of people we can all be truly proud of. The 400 crew comprising of engineering, medical and naval capability will be gone for up to 90 days,” Mr Mills said.

“In speaking to the ships crew it was clear that they are well prepared for what awaits them and are keen to get on with the task ahead. Many expressed a sense of pride at being able to represent Australians who have provided generous support in a variety of ways.

“I am very aware that many of these men and women have forgone their Christmas holiday leave with friends and family at very short notice to take up this aid mission and I thank them on behalf of all Territorians for the sacrifice they and their families are making. I know there will be many homes in Palmerston for example where a parent will be away serving in Indonesia and my thoughts go especially to our defence families during this time.”