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NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

26th September 2003

CLARE MARTIN MLA

Chief Minister

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR WATERFRONT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY (EIS)

Territory environmental and engineering services company, URS Australia, has been awarded the contract for preparation of the Darwin City Waterfront's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Chief Minister, Clare Martin, announced today.

Ms Martin said that work on the preparation of an EIS would commence immediately, as the first stage of the \$600 million Darwin City Waterfront Redevelopment project.

"This contract - worth \$871,655.00 - will primarily use local resources and will provide a detailed description of the existing environment, its biodiversity, contamination and the impact of the development," she said.

"The EIS will include standard issues such as assessing any contamination of fill material, soil, surface and ground water and will also include consideration of archaeological and cultural issues and the impact on existing flora and fauna."

URS has been supporting Northern Territory resource and infrastructure projects since 1975.

Their recent work includes the preparation of EIS's and provision of specialist engineering services for a number of major Territory projects. These include the Darwin LNG Plant and Bayu Undan Subsea Pipeline, the McArthur River Mine expansion and the Alcan Gove upgrade.

"The Waterfront project will be a significant step towards the further development of Darwin as a tourism and commercial centre," said Charles Johnston, NT Manager for URS Australia.

"It will provide a major facility for the community and we're delighted to contribute to this development."

The process for preparation of the EIS will run over 12 months and include:

- A Notice Of Intent presented to the Minister
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement guidelines prepared and advertised for public review (late October 2003)
- Comments reviewed by the Minister and final EIS guidelines prepared
- URS prepare draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement advertised for public review (May 2004)
- Final EIS presented to Government (July 2004)

For more information see www.waterfront.nt.gov.au

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