$4.5 MILLION TERMINAL WILL HELP ATTRACT CRUISE SHIPS

The $4.5 million cruise ship terminal, part of the $1.1 billion Darwin Waterfront and Convention Centre development, will help attract more cruise ships to town by providing better passenger facilities and a more visually friendly drop-off and pick-up point.

“My Government is committed to promoting Darwin as a cruise ship destination and Australia’s Asian gateway,” she said.

“The cruise ship industry is very important, because the ships arrive during our off-peak period and deliver high spending tourists who often travel through the Territory - this benefits many local businesses and helps create jobs.”

Ms Martin made her comments while inspecting the Darwin based Oceanic Princess cruise ship on the first of its 14 visits to town this year. The company has confirmed they will continue their 10-day Darwin-Broome service next year after selling out this year.

For business like the Oceanic Princess, the new terminal will help provide an even better service.

The $4.5 million terminal will include:

- A weather protected passenger facility with covered walkway.
- Resurfacing of the car park area and the provision of a covered waiting area.
- Improved lighting, landscaping, security fencing, trolleys, furniture and other public amenities.

“The architect has developed the design concept to allow for future expansion to match the expected growth of the cruise ship industry,” she said.

“A recent NT Tourist Commission 10-year cruise ship strategy predicted that the cruise ship industry could inject up to $60 million into the Territory economy by 2014.

“We recognised that the facilities at Fort Hill Wharf needed significant upgrading to accommodate this cruise ship growth, in addition to naval visit, and capitalise on the substantial opportunity it represents.”

The cruise ship terminal is expected to be completed by December 2006.

The Chief Minister again stressed that the Navy would continue to be a welcome and important part of the Waterfront development and they will continue to dock at the Darwin city wharves.

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