16th March 2005

Burke Welcomes Prime Ministers Concern for Cyclone Ravaged Communities

The Country Liberal Party Leader Denis Burke today thanked the Prime Minister John Howard for his rapid and humane response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Ingrid.

Mr Burke will put the Territory’s case for federal funding to the Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads Jim Lloyd when he visits cyclone ravaged Croker Island along with Country Liberal Party Senator for the Northern Territory Nigel Scullion today.

Mr Burke said: “I have been in contact with the Federal government and John Howard’s office and the most important thing now is to move swiftly to get peoples’ lives back on track. The Prime Minister John Howard recognises that fact and has deemed it serious enough to send a senior Minister at short notice to assess what assistance the Federal Government can provide.

“I will be working very closely with the Federal Coalition government to ensure that all communities across the affected areas will receive immediate support to get their essential services back up and running as soon as possible.

“The remote communities affected by Cyclone Ingrid need urgent backing in their time of need and I will be providing leadership in tune with John Howard to make sure that the Territory Government doesn’t dither in providing the necessary support to get schools, hospitals and police back on board and up and running quickly.

“As in the Katherine floods the Prime Minister has again shown the importance with which he holds Territorians.

“I look forward to building on this partnership with John Howard and the Federal Coalition if the Country Liberal Party is elected at the next Territory election to deliver major benefits to all Territorian families and businesses.”