The Government has called tenders for the construction of a gatehouse at the Port of Darwin East Arm wharves.

“This reflects the growing trade through the Port of Darwin and the increased need for security there,” Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns said.

“Two new international services have commenced since the completion of the north-south rail link, and Bootu Creek Resources has recently confirmed its plans to export some 600,000 tonnes of manganese ore through the port each year.

“The Darwin Port Corporation has recently commenced the upgrade of quarantine facilities to reduce clearance times and costs for users of the port.

“Tenders have now been called for the construction of a new gatehouse at the port to comply with international security and Customs regulations.”

The scope of works includes:

- construction of a gatehouse supported on an elevated platform;
- approach traffic islands;
- boom gates;
- construction of a high roof over the gatehouse area and illumination for the area;
- supply of power and communications services; and
- provision of standby power.

“The Darwin Port Corporation’s total import and export throughputs increased by 3.3 per cent in 2003/04 despite a significant downturn in live cattle exports for the year,” Dr Burns said.

“Throughputs are forecast to increase significantly in the current financial year due to the recovery of the live cattle export trade, ramping up of landbridge trade on the AustralAsia trade route, and the possible commencement of bulk mineral exports in this period.”

“Investment in the Port of Darwin is a key component of the Government’s long-term plans that are driving sustainable economic growth and jobs for Territorians.”