Dr Burns releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement for $600 M Darwin City Waterfront Project

Lands and Planning Minister Dr Chris Burns today released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the $600 million Darwin City Waterfront Project.

“I am delighted to report to the Territory public that the draft EIS does not identify any major issue that will compromise the project,” Dr Burns said.

“We remain on track to transform an old industrial site into one of the world's great waterfront developments – boosting our construction and convention industries, our tourism sector, and the Territory economy as a whole.

“This is a comprehensive draft report for the most exciting construction project in the Top End for many years,” he said. “We are very keen to get feedback from the public.”

The two-volume draft EIS has been prepared for the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment by environmental consultants URS. It is available online at www.ipe.nt.gov.au/waterfronteis.

The draft EIS will be exhibited for public review and comment until July 12. It can be viewed at Casuarina Public Library, Palmerston Public Library, Litchfield Shire Offices, Northern Territory Library, Charles Darwin University Library, and at the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment - Ground Floor, 38 Cavenagh St, Darwin.

Hard bound copies of the draft EIS cost $100, while CD-ROMs cost $25. Both can be purchased from URS. Tel: 8980 2900

A public workshop is being held on Thursday 10 June, 2004, at which the project's Independent Environmental Auditor and consultants from URS will be present to answer any questions.

The draft EIS reveals that there are relatively low levels of contamination across the existing waterfront site.

“In a long-standing industrial site, especially one with substantial fuel operations and bulk mineral exports, it would normally be expected that there would be widespread and potentially significant contamination,” Dr Burns said. “This has not proved to be the case.”

The final EIS will be released later this year.