TERRITORIAN APPOINTED NEW ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

A Territorian with more than 30 years experience as an electoral administrator has been appointed the Northern Territory’s new Electoral Commissioner, Chief Minister, Clare Martin, announced today.

Mr Bill Shepheard has lived and worked in the Territory for 14 years, including the past five as Australian Electoral Commissioner for the NT.

“Bill brings a wealth of experience to the role, including an acute understanding of the special challenges and opportunities in the Territory,” Ms Martin said.

“He replaces Mr Kerry Heisner, who resigned following an injury received during a secondment to Iraq, and will taking up his appointment in mid-April.”

Mr Shepheard was unanimously recommended by an independent selection panel. The Leader of the Opposition and the two independent MLAs were also consulted before the recommendation for Mr Shepheard’s appointment went to the Administrator.

“Bill comes to the role following a five-year stint as the most senior Electoral Officer for the Commonwealth in the NT, successfully conducting the 2001 and 2004 Commonwealth elections and the 2002 ATSIC elections,” she said.

“He also is a former Deputy Chief Electoral Officer for the NT Electoral Office.”

Mr Shepheard’s extensive experience also includes working in Western Australia, Victoria and ACT electoral administrations and working on secondment to the United Nations as an International Observer in the East Timor Elections.

In 2001 he was a member of the Distribution panel that undertook the Commonwealth’s inaugural Redistribution of the Northern Territory. This led to the decision to create an additional seat in the House of Representatives for the Northern Territory.
Career history in brief:

2000 – 2005  Australian Electoral Officer for the NT  
            Australian Electoral Commission

1997 – 2000  Senior Project Officer : Policy, Planning and Review  
            WA Electoral Commission

1993 – 1996  Project Officer: Elections & Strategic Services  
            WA Electoral Commission

1998 – 1993  Deputy Chief Electoral Officer  
            NT Electoral Office

1983 – 1988  Divisional Returning Officer  
            Victoria and ACT  
            Australian Electoral Commission

1974 – 1988  Divisional Clerk  
            Victoria

Contact: Craig Rowston 0401 119 777