Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

*Build cruise ship terminal now, not later*

25 October 2004

The Martin Government must bring forward the construction of its promised $2.5 million cruise terminal facility to accommodate the 55 cruise ships scheduled to dock in Darwin in 2005, CLP Leader and Shadow Tourism Minister Terry Mills said today.

“An estimated 20,000 cruise ship passengers will visit Darwin next year, it’s clear this new cruise terminal has to be escalated as an immediate priority,” Mr Mills said.

“The first impression for the 20,000 tourists as they step onto dry land should be of a weather protected, enclosed passenger facility with walkways, landscaping, trolleys, lightening and security. All of the infrastructure the Government has promised, but is yet to deliver.

“It's great to have all this cruise ship success, but we need the proper facilities to accommodate the passengers.

“Darwin’s peak tourism body, Tourism Top End, has also called on the Government to fast track its new terminal plan.

“Fort Hill Wharf cannot wait for the waterfront development to take shape over the coming years,” Mr Mills said.

“We must send cruise ship passengers away with a good impression, so let's make our first impression count.”

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