17 August 2003
Parliament returns for second week

A number of key pieces of legislation are expected to be passed by Parliament when it resumes for the second week of Sittings on Tuesday, Leader of Government Business Paul Henderson said.

"Key amongst the items to be debated is Government legislation that would formally create the new Charles Darwin University, merging the old Northern Territory University bodies with the Centralian College," Mr Henderson said.

Parliament is also expected to pass amendments to the Menzies School of Health Research Act that would make the School a controlled entity of the Charles Darwin University.

Mr Henderson said Education Minister would deliver a statement highlighting achievements and improvements in Education across the Territory.

"The second week of Parliament will be very busy, and I am calling on the Opposition to lift its dismal performance after being shown up by the hard work of Independent Members Loraine Braham and Gerry Wood," said Mr Henderson.

"In a period when there has been major announcements of a $75M plan to Build our Police Force, a $600M redevelopment of the Darwin City Waterfront, and the first tenant of the Darwin Business Park, the Opposition gave priority to introducing a Bill on the trade of cat and dog fur.

"On General Business Day the Leader of the Opposition and his three most senior frontbenchers failed to ask a single question in Question Time, introduced no Bills and proposed no motions. On Thursday, two Opposition MLAs went missing.

"It seems from last week’s performance that the Opposition still has no new ideas for the future of the Territory, and I urge them to lift their effort this week."