Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today confirmed details about the new combined recreation centre and library for Palmerston saying it would be the largest building project for the people of Palmerston in years.

“This will be the new hub of activity and an exciting addition to our great Territory lifestyle,” she said.

“With a total commitment of $10.77 million from the Territory Government for the recreation centre and $5.4 million from Palmerston City Council for new library facilities, we are also looking at a significant boost to the local building and construction industry.

“It will create jobs, drive economic growth and help keep the Territory moving ahead.

“With $1.8 million being spent this year on head works, I anticipate major construction to begin in July 2005 and be completed by March 2006.

“As the fastest growing region in the Territory, Palmerston needs these facilities.”

Once complete, the Recreation Centre will include:

- Two full size basketball / netball courts
- Spectator seating
- Change rooms and ablutions
- Multi-purpose and health and fitness rooms
- Kiosk, offices and foyer.

“The project has been developed in close consultation with the community, sporting groups, local business interests and is a wonderful outcome of the Palmerston Partnership with Government,” Ms Martin said.

“The new facilities will become a central focus for the local community and follows the $2 million for a Palmerston Magpies home ground we allocated earlier this year in conjunction with the Charles Darwin University .”

Ms Martin said that there has been significant construction cost escalation since originally promised before the election at $7 million. Since October 2003, a project steering committee with membership from both Government and the Palmerston City Council has been responsible for the development of the recreation facility proposal.