24 September 2003

Palmerston Partnership Agreement Signing

The Northern Territory Government and Palmerston City Council will work more closely together to address issues of importance to local residents following the signing of the Palmerston Partnership Agreement.

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, and Palmerston Mayor, Annette Burke, signed the agreement this morning saying it was important for the city.

The Agreement has been developed by the NT Government and Palmerston City Council as a component of the Building Stronger Regions – Stronger Futures Strategy.

"This signing is a demonstration of the commitment by my Government and Palmerston City Council to meet identified and agreed community needs in Palmerston," Ms Martin said.

"This agreement has been developed by representatives on the steering committee and the six action groups, through extensive community consultation, and will form the basis for direction and decision making in the future."

The Partnership Agreement will address the follow areas with milestone dates for achievements to be established by the relevant working group within 3 months.

- Improve social and economic outcomes for youth.

Increase the proportion of young people successfully making the transition from school into further training or employment and create greater access to a range of appropriate education, training, employment and other development opportunities.

- Enhance the shape and nature of the city

Develop appropriate strategies for urban enhancement in Palmerston.

Ensure the future availability of dedicated seniors accommodation in Palmerston,

Improve access to emergency accommodation and crisis support in Palmerston,

Provide greater integration of land use and infrastructure planning in Palmerston in cooperation with the private sector and develop effective planning protocols between Government and Council.

- Facilitate development of a strong economic base

Capitalise on opportunities to enhance Palmerston’s economic base as part of wider Darwin region.

- Provide greater recreational opportunities.
Enhance the quality of life in Palmerston by improving recreation opportunities.

Provide for the identified recreational needs to young people through effective, accessible, low-cost and appropriately located services, facilities and opportunities.

Construct a multi-functional recreational facility addressing sporting, entertainment, leisure, arts, cultural and other community needs and aspirations.

Possibly integrate or co-locate a public library facility with the proposed Recreation Centre.

"The success of this pilot will impact on future proposed Partnership Agreements with other Territory local government councils," Ms Martin said.

"We are confident it will help enhance Palmerston into the future and develop the type of city that its residents want."