Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today released the report from the Public Liability Insurance Forums that were recently held in Darwin and Alice Springs.

These community forums were facilitated by the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"The forums were well attended and provided an invaluable insight into the problems the business and not-for-profit sectors are experiencing in the NT regarding the affordability and accessibility of public liability insurance," Ms Martin said.

Ms Martin said she would be arguing for a national approach to these issues when she attends the Ministerial Council on Public Liability Insurance tomorrow in Canberra. The meeting will be attended by Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers.

"Insurance operates as an international network of providers and whilst there are matters that we can consider locally, the answer to addressing many of the current public liability insurance concerns will require a national approach," Ms Martin said.

"A national approach will lead to better harmonisation, uniformity and equity and also more cost effective solutions for organisations in obtaining public liability insurance".

"We will also be looking at the schemes other States are introducing to cover these problems, and the potential for joining other States’ schemes," Ms Martin said.

Many ideas were put forward at the forums, Ms Martin said.

"They include such suggestions as reforming some laws, eliminating multiple insurance cover for operators at the same event, and grouping insurance for organisations with similar profiles".

"The Government has listened to the forums, and will work with peak industry groups and the insurance industry to further develop options for ‘pooling’ insurance cover, particularly for community and sporting groups," she said.

"The Government is well aware that issues surrounding public liability insurance are causing considerable concern within the community and threaten the very future of certain events and businesses," Ms Martin said.

Ms Martin said the discussions that had taken place at the local level had helped shape the Territory’s approach to the national meeting.

The report from the local forums is available from the Government website at www.nt.gov.au from March 27.