Dr Chris Burns
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

4 July 2005

GOVT AWARDS $2.6M DESERT KNOWLEDGE CONTRACT

The Desert Knowledge Precinct south of Alice Springs has received a $2.6 million shot in the arm with the Government’s award of a contract to local construction company Sitzler Bros.

The contract is for Stage 1(b) of the precinct headworks, which includes the completion of the Avenue of Knowledge and a roundabout at its eastern end, installation of power and water services running parallel to the avenue, and a car park to service the first of the building packages.

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns said works are expected to begin in mid-July 2005, with completion anticipated for November 2005.

“The construction of the Desert Knowledge Precinct will provide an enormous boost to the Central Australian economy,” Dr Burns said.

“The project is expected to generate more than 200 jobs during the three-year building phase.”

The first stage of the precinct development involves building major new infrastructure, including siteworks, headworks, the Desert Peoples Centre administration and services building, the first stage of the Desert Peoples Centre teaching buildings, and the headquarters for Desert Knowledge Australia.

The remainder of the Desert Peoples Centre teaching buildings, a shared library, Desert Peoples Centre residential accommodation, and a Living Desert Cultural Centre will be built in future financial years.

“The Martin Government’s commitment to the Desert Knowledge project is one of the largest capital investments in Alice Springs by any government,” Dr Burns said.

“The precinct will provide jobs and a new economic focus for Alice Springs, putting the Territory at the forefront of developing smart ways to live, work and thrive in arid areas.

“With about one-sixth of the world’s population living in desert areas, the market potential for expertise in building sustainable arid communities is clear.”

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