JOINT MEDIA RELEASE BY THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PAUL HENDERSON, AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, DR PETER TOYNE:

BUILDING THE FUTURE THROUGH SAFER COMMUNITIES

Budget 2006 continues the Martin Government’s commitment to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and build safer communities, Minister for Police, Paul Henderson, and Minister for Justice, Dr Peter Toyne, announced today.

Budget 2006 delivers a record Police, Fire and Emergency Services budget of $212 million – an increase of 55% since 2001.

“This extra funding means more police on the beat, more patrols and more resources so we are better able to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and build safer futures for our communities,” Mr Henderson said.

“To further support communities, the Office of Crime Prevention has been allocated $3 million to continue leading crime prevention strategies throughout the Territory,” Dr Toyne said.

SAFER FUTURES BY PREVENTING CRIME

The Martin Government is providing police with the resources they need to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in our community.

“The Government’s $75 million Building our Police Force Plan is delivering 200 extra police on the beat by the end of 2006 and build a new era in Territory policing,” said Mr Henderson.

Budget 2006 commits a further $32 million to roll out the plan, including:

- $160 000 for a coastal vessel for the East Arnhem region;
- establishing dedicated traffic branches in Darwin and Alice Springs; and
- additional road safety equipment

A further $440 000 is also allocated to continue to provide Aboriginal Community Police Officers in remote communities with police-owned vehicles to carry out their duties.
TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Budget 2006 tackles anti-social behaviour in our community.

Highlights include:
- $1.7 million for the Juvenile Diversion Program
- more than $1 million for the Office of Alcohol Policy to implement a whole of Government response to alcohol abuse, including $275 000 to develop Local Area Alcohol Management Plans
- $630 000 for Police Social Order Patrols in Darwin
- $200 000 to establish Alcohol Courts; and
- $560 000 for new treatment places for people who are subject to an Alcohol Intervention Order or a Prohibition Order from an Alcohol Court

STRONGER COMMUNITIES FIGHTING CRIME

Government is continuing to build stronger futures for Territory communities with $860 000 allocated in Budget 2006 to community-driven crime prevention programs, including :

- $400 000 for Crime Prevention Grants
- $350 000 for Regional Crime Prevention Councils across the Territory; and
- $110 000 for Neighbourhood Watch as well as administrative and personnel support from police.

THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

In the face of the changing global situation, the Martin Government is continuing to develop new ways to protect Territorians from the potential threat of terrorism.

Budget 2006 includes:
- $3.5 million in extra funding for enhanced security at Darwin and Alice Springs airports, provided under a funding arrangement with the Australian Government
- $760 000 for the purchase, maintenance and replacement of equipment and the provision of training to develop urban search and rescue capabilities

“Budget 2006 builds the future of the Territory by creating safer communities”.

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