NEW BOAT BOOSTS POLICE PATROLLING CAPABILITIES

NT Police water patrolling and search and rescue capabilities have been further boosted today with the Chief Minister, Clare Martin, and Police Minister Paul Henderson officially launching the newest and largest boat in the NT Police fleet.

The $440,000, 14 metre long PPV Beagle Gulf is the fourth vessel to be delivered as part of the Martin Government’s $1M coastal vessel purchasing program and will be stationed in Darwin.

The vessel purchasing program is a recommendation of the O’Sullivan Report, and is part of the Government’s $75M Building our Police Force Plan.

“This new vessel will further boost the capabilities of the NT Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit to respond to incidents in and around Darwin Harbour, including coming to the help of anglers in trouble, and reports of illegal fishing,” Ms Martin said.

“I am sure everyone who uses the beautiful waters in and around Darwin Harbour, whether for work or recreation, will welcome the arrival of the Beagle.”

Mr Henderson said local business Territory Marine has secured the contract to deliver the final two boats of the coastal vessel program.

“These 7.4 metre vessels will be constructed in 2005/06 and 2006/07, and stationed in Wadeye and Ngukurr respectively,” Mr Henderson said.

“In addition, the 9.1 metre PPV Finnis which was commissioned in late 2003 will now be transferred from Darwin to Nhulunbuy.

“The Government’s coastal vessel program will ensure NT Police have at least eight vessels over 7.3 metres in length stationed in key points around the NT by the end of 2007.”

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