MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR THE RAILWAY
HON BARRY COULTER, MLA

Ref: C-0482-97

Date: Tuesday 3 June 1997

NT AND SA FINALISE RAILWAY AGREEMENT

Cabinet today approved a legal agreement which will be the final step in binding the Northern Territory and South Australia together in their joint bid to make the Adelaide to Darwin railway happen.

The agreement will be signed by NT Chief Minister Shane Stone and SA Premier John Olsen this Friday before they meet the Prime Minister to seek Federation funding for the rail project.

NT Railway Minister Barry Coulter said this act would complete many months of discussions and negotiations between the two governments, and would launch the AustralAsia Railway Corporation agreed to by both governments earlier this year.

The corporation will be the project’s administrative vehicle, handling private sector expressions of interest and tendering processes and overseeing the selection of a consortium to build, own and operate the railway.

Mr Coulter said the legal agreement defined the roles of the NT and SA governments, including a commitment to encourage the use of local goods and services. The governments have each committed $100 million to the project.

"It will show the strength of purpose of our two governments to bring the railway project to reality," he said.

"If he does not know that already, the Prime Minister will be reminded of our commitment when this agreement is signed."

ENDS

Contact Neil Dibbs 89996552