MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS,
HON. TIM BALDWIN, MLA

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Railways:
FIRST RAIL CONTRACTS GO TO NT FIRMS

Two Northern Territory surveying companies have won the first
tenders awarded by the Asia Pacific Transport Consortium, Minister
for Industries and Business Tim Baldwin announced today.

Matthews and Associates has won a contract with Adrail, the railway
construction consortium component of the Asia Pacific Transport
Consortium.

The company’s contract will involve surveying approaches to five
bridges south of Katherine between the Victoria Highway and the King
River.

Ironically, Matthews and Associates principal John Matthews was one
of the first surveyors to work on the route in 1979. At that time, an
influx of interstate surveyors helped map the corridor and peg the
centre line of the proposed route.

The other company to win work is Airesearch Mapping, a company
which specialises in aerial photography and mapping.

Regional manager Tony Harder said the company will survey about
270 kilometres of the proposed railway corridor in three areas, around
Alice Springs and between Mataranka and Adelaide River.

The company operates four aircraft with aerial camera systems. The
aerial photos will be scanned to produce high resolution digital
images, spatial data and digital terrain models of the corridor.

Sophisticated computer equipment provides the ability to magnify
specific areas for detailed planning.

Mr Baldwin said both companies had been invited to tender after
being identified by the NT Industry Search and Opportunities office
(NTISO) as having the capability to do the survey work required by the
consortium.

MEDIA: The directors of both companies are available to speak
with the media and assist with photographic opportunities.
Contact: Warwick Sinclair