Burke waits on rail deal closure today

Chief Minister Denis Burke was in Sydney this morning awaiting the arrival of key documents leading up to financial close on the Alice Springs to Darwin railway.

Mr Burke had anticipated returning to Darwin late last night, but the arrival of the documents by plane into Sydney was delayed.

Mr Burke signed documents yesterday after flying to Sydney from Alice Springs on Wednesday night.

South Australian Premier John Olsen was also in Sydney and the two leaders are expected to sign further documents today.

Late yesterday key government advisers were awaiting further advice from the Australasia Railway Consortium on when financial close would be reached.

A spokesman said: “We are doing everything humanly possible to bring about financial close to this project.”

Earlier yesterday South Australian Opposition Leader Mike Rann said the $1.2 billion project was expected to reach financial closure by the weekend.

But this was ruled later ruled out by a Territory government spokesman.