MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR THE RAILWAY
HON BARRY COULTER, MLA

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Transport and Works Department Secretary, Paul Tyrrell, is the new chairman of the Northern Territory’s Railway Executive Group.

He succeeds Dr Neil Conn, who is retiring from his position as Under Treasurer.

Railway Minister Barry Coulter said today Dr Conn’s skills, knowledge and experience were unique in the Northern Territory, and his long-term participation in the railway project had been invaluable.

“The man is a legend, impossible to replace with the stroke of a pen,” Mr Coulter said. “His contribution to the development of the railway project, and indeed to the development of the Territory, cannot be adequately measured or calculated.”

He said Dr Conn had travelled extensively promoting the project in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States, and had developed extensive international support for the NT railway in those countries.

He was appointed Director of the Railway Executive Group in 1986, authored a landmark project feasibility study which was tabled in the NT Parliament in September 1986, and has been directly associated with the project from that time.

Dr Conn was the Territory’s Under Treasurer from 1981 to 1983, and then from 1986 to 1996.

The Railway Executive Group advises the NT Government on all aspects of the railway project and implements Government decisions relating to it, and works in close association with its South Australian counterpart.

Dr Conn’s position will be filled by the new Under Treasurer, Mr Ken Clarke. Other members are Mr Tyrrell, Mr Barry Chambers, Mr Larry Bannister and Ms Sharon Mulholland.

ENDS

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