MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR THE RAILWAY
HON BARRY COULTER, MLA

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Date: Tuesday 12 November 1996

ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANT EVENT

At 3.15pm (Adelaide time) tomorrow (Wednesday 13 November) the NT Chief Minister and the Premier of South Australia will sign an historic agreement between the governments of SA and NT to progress the Alice Springs to Darwin railway project.

The agreement sets out the roles and functions of the two governments, including financial commitments. It announces the introduction of legislation in the NT and SA parliaments to establish the AustralAsia Railway Corporation, a statutory authority which will handle all railway business, including issuing detailed project briefs to the private sector and evaluating subsequent submissions.

Chief Minister Stone and Premier Brown will take the project brief to the Prime Minister at an early date, seeking appropriate Commonwealth commitments to the railway project and eventual membership of the Corporation on an equal basis with SA and the NT.

The signing ceremony will take place at 3.15pm at the State Administration Building, Adelaide. NT Railway Minister Barry Coulter will also attend.

ENDS

Contact Neil Dibbs 89996552