MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS
HON. TIM BALDWIN, MLA

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Industries and Business Minister Tim Baldwin today presented Parliament with impressive figures relating to the Alice-Darwin railway project.

The Minister told Parliament the railway would require:

- 2 million pre-stressed concrete sleepers;

- The Katherine sleeper factory would produce 1800 sleepers a day. Tennant Creek's factory would produce 2400 sleepers a day, each sleeper weighing 260 kg;

- Total cost to construct the factories will be $16 million. Both will be 200 metres long, with the Katherine plant 20 metres wide and Tennant Creek's plant 26 metres in width; and

- Around 1300 direct jobs will be generated from the construction of the Alice-Darwin railway.

"The Australian Labor Party called this project a Faded Dream," Minister Baldwin said.

"For the 300 plus NT businesses already registered to obtain work from the railway, I believe it is anything but a Faded Dream."

The Minister said the Northern Territory Government would continue to work in partnership with the railway consortium to ensure the NT obtained the maximum benefits from the $1.2 billion project.

The railway is expected to commence construction in September.

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