MEDIA RELEASE

MIKE REED
ACTING CHIEF MINISTER

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The Darwin to Alice Springs railway moved a step closer to reality today with the Commonwealth Government’s certification of the access regime for the project.

Acting Chief Minister, Mike Reed, said the certification by Treasurer Peter Costello was a major step.

“The certification means we now have a 30 year access regime which is in accordance with the National Competition Principles Agreement,” Mr Reed said.

“This is an important development as it provides stable regulatory environment for this major $1.2 billion infrastructure project.”

A certified access regime was needed to meet the requirements of the National Competition Council and was certified under s.44N of the Trade Practices Act.

Mr Reed said the regime strikes an appropriate balance between the interests of the owners – Asia-Pacific Transport Consortium – and the wider public interest in ensuring fair and reasonable access for third parties.

“This milestone is the outcome of close co-operation between the South Australian and Northern Territory Governments.”

The Acting Chief Minister said the certification of the access regime keeps the project’s timetable on track.

“This is one more important step towards the Territory, Commonwealth and South Australian Governments delivering the most significant infrastructure project since the Snowy Mountains hydroelectric scheme,” Mr Reed said.

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