The Territory Government has welcomed the Federal Coalition's positive commitment to the Alice Springs - Darwin Railway project, Chief Minister, Marshall Perron, said today.

Mr Perron said the one-billion dollar rail link was the single most important development project in the Territory.

"After years of promises and stalling by the Federal Labor Government there is now at last hope on the horizon, provided the Liberal-National Coalition wins the coming Federal election," he said.

Mr Perron said the Coalition's Shadow Minister for Land Transport, Mr John Sharp, had made it clear that once in office he would be willing to discuss a combination of measures to get the project up and running.

"He has told the Territory Government that the Coalition sees the rail link delivering benefits to the nation as a whole, as well as directly to the Territory."

Mr Perron said he intended making the rail project the first topic on his agenda with an Andrew Peacock led Federal Government after the election.
determining a firm upper level of private sector commitment."

"I am now hopeful that those discussions will mature in tandem with a coalition election victory before May 1990."

Contact:  Andrew Coward 896293

ENDS