Michael Gunner
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Joint justice team to be established in Alice Springs by South Australia and the Northern Territory**

2 December 2016

The South Australian and Northern Territory Governments will establish a shared cross-border police team in Alice Springs to tackle issues such as illicit drugs, transit routes, road safety and alcohol, family and domestic violence.

Premier Jay Weatherill and Chief Minister Michael Gunner announced at the SA/NT First Ministers’ Forum today in Alice Springs that two jointly-funded SAPOL-sworn intelligence officers will be based in the central Australian city to focus on these issues.

Two taskforces aimed at improving the delivery of important services to remote regions in central Australia and further boosting tourism, arts and culture opportunities will also be established.

Mr Weatherill and Mr Gunner also agreed to hold a joint Cabinet meeting next year.

Other key issues to be discussed at today’s forum include:

- Defence opportunities on the back of the significant defence industries in both the Northern Territory and South Australia;
- Indigenous procurement and employment;
- Maximising job opportunities from the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);
- Closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage;
- Early childhood proposals including three year olds in preschool
- Managing the energy market’s transition to a lower emissions future.

**Background**

The First Ministers Forums were established as part of the MoU signed by Mr Weatherill and the NT Government in April last year.

The aim of these forums is to strengthen ties between the two jurisdictions and unlock economic opportunities in central Australia and improve social outcomes in the region.
Over the past year South Australia and the Northern Territory have committed in excess of $100,000 towards funding several initiatives to address Aboriginal family violence in remote communities and $400,000 in joint tourism campaigns to revitalise tourism opportunities to highlight Central Australia as one of the great road trips of Australia.

**Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill**

The forums provide us with an important opportunity to progress issues that are a priority to both South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Our jurisdictions share many similarities and challenges and by working closely together, we are able to get the best possible outcomes across a range of areas ranging from community safety to tourism.

It also means we have greater consistency in decision-making which affects those living in the remote cross-border region.

**Quotes attributable to Chief Minister Michael Gunner**

The Territory’s relationship with South Australia is key to the growth of Central Australia and establishing Alice Springs as Australia’s inland capital.

My government wants to unlock economic opportunities throughout Central Australia, through tourism, culture and transport investment.

I’m pleased Premier Weatherill has joined me in Alice Springs to discuss shared challenges, such as justice, Aboriginal disadvantage and the NDIS.

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