Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan has congratulated Territory cricketers Kane Richardson and Luke Robins on their selection in the Chairman’s XI squad to take on England in Alice Springs later this month.

Cricket Australia announced the 12-player squad this morning, which will be captained by former Australian Test spinner, Michael Beer.

“To have the chance to play against England is an incredible opportunity for both Kane and Luke,” Mr Conlan said.

“I’m delighted that this Government’s hard work behind the scenes to secure this match in Alice Springs for the very first time will result in such an valuable experience for two Territory talents.

“Kane and Luke’s call up means they’ll have the chance to learn from some of the world’s best players and impress Australian selectors who’ll be looking to see who performs well ahead of the One Day Series against England later in the summer.

“Kane and Luke both play for the NT Strike in the new South Australian Premier League and their selection in the Chairman’s XI squad will also help build on the pathways that are now available for our young Territory cricketers to make it the elite level of the sport.

“I wish Kane and Luke all the best, I know they’ll both do the Territory proud and I look forward to seeing them in action at Traeger Park.”

Kane, 22, made his international debut for Australia in the second one dayer against Sri Lanka in January this year and played first-class cricket for South Australia before joining his home side, the NT Strike, this season. He also played in the 2013 Indian Premier League after being bought for US$700,000.

At just 19 years of age Luke, a product of the PINTS cricket club, has produced some impressive form while playing for the NT Strike recently, including a 109 not out from only 77 balls against South Australia.

Cricket Australia National Talent Manager Greg Chappell said: “This is an exciting squad. Each player has represented their state at senior level except for Jake Doran, who is just 16 years old and is one of the key members of our current Australian Under-19 squad that will compete in the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Dubai early next year.

“Kane Richardson and Luke Robins are both products of the very successful youth development program in the Northern Territory, while Josh Lalor is one of two indigenous cricketers on state contract lists, with Daniel Christian being the other.
“This is a great opportunity to bring elite cricket to Alice Springs. Traeger Park is a high-class venue at which we expect top-class cricket will become a regular visitor,” Chappell said.

Mr Conlan said with the match now only two weeks away, excitement was beginning to build.

“It’s been 13 years since Alice Springs last hosted an international cricket team and we can’t wait to see the England side in action against the Chairman’s XI.

“Territorians love their cricket and we’ve had a fantastic response with ticket sales so far and corporate packages also almost sold out for both days of the match.

“Having the England team and accompanying media in Central Australia will provide invaluable exposure of the Territory in one of our biggest international tourism markets – the United Kingdom.”

The Chairman’s XI match against England will be played at Traeger Park in Alice Springs from 29-30 November in between the Brisbane (21-25 November) and Adelaide (5-9 December) matches of the Commonwealth Bank Ashes Test Series.

A portion of proceeds from gate receipts will be contributed to the development of junior Cricket in Central Australia.

The Chairman’s XI squad is:

Michael Beer (c) WA
Steve Cazzulino TAS
Jake Doran NSW
Marcus Harris WA
Michael Hill VIC
Alexander Keath VIC
Josh Lalor NSW
Alister McDermott QLD
James Muirhead VIC
Kane Richardson SA
Luke Robins NT
Ashton Turner WA

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