Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today announced the appointment of members of the Interim Board for Desert Knowledge Australia.

Mr John Baskerville has been appointed as Chairperson and the members are: Ms Sharon Hocking from Broken Hill and Mr Des Rogers of Alice Springs.

Mr Baskerville is the senior public servant in Alice Springs and has had a long involvement with the construction industry, land use planning and power management in Central Australia.

Ms Hocking operates two businesses in Broken Hill, is the president of the city’s Chamber of Commerce, and holds positions in several key local organisations and authorities.

Mr Rogers has a strong involvement with business in the Alice Springs region. He is chairman of the regional council of ATSIC and chairman of the Indigenous Housing Association of the NT.

All members have a close association with desert Australia and between them provide representation for Government, business, Aboriginal, local, interstate and national interests.

Legislation establishing the Desert Knowledge Australia Statutory Corporation came into operation on 22 September 2003 with provision for an Interim Board for up to 18 months after the commencement of the Act.

A full Board of up to 11 members will take responsibility for the Corporation after that time.

The Interim Board will have a critical role in establishing the operational programs of the new Corporation. These include the establishment of the "Societies of Participants", the grass roots membership of Desert Knowledge Australia from across the States and Territories of Australia.

The Societies may also include international interests.

The Corporation will have responsibility for the Desert Knowledge Precinct for which Government has committed $2.2M for headworks and $5M for the Desert Peoples Centre developments this financial year as a commencement to the construction program.

The Interim Board will have a key role in the initial stages of setting up and organising the Precinct and its management.