Research into the development of a public art strategy for the Northern Territory is now underway Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today as she reaffirmed Government's commitment to Public Art.

“I am pleased to announce that Brecknock Consulting Pty Ltd has won the tender to research and recommend options for a public art strategy for the Northern Territory,” she said.

“The consulting team will be led by Mr Richard Brecknock and Ms Carol Atwell, both of whom offer a wealth of experience and expertise in public art projects and policy development across Australia.”

Ms Martin said that this Public Art project was extremely exciting as examples elsewhere show that well planned public art and design in the built environment provides significant economic opportunities for the construction, design and arts sectors.

“My Government wants to see urban enhancement and design that showcases the excellence of Territory art while creating jobs for local artists and construction and design professionals,” she said.

“I urge stakeholders to have their say on the proposed public art strategy as it will provide the blueprint for integrating art/design into future projects including the Darwin Waterfront.

“The consultancy team will be working closely with the construction, design and arts sectors, as well as Local Governments, to develop viable policy recommendations to Government.”

In celebration of the Year of Built Environment, the NT Government, Darwin City Council and Alice Springs Town Council are in partnership to run public art forums in Darwin on the 25 and 26 March 2004 and in Alice Springs on the 29 March 2004 to highlight issues in public art development.

Richard Brecknock will be attending both forums to gather information for the development of the recommended strategy framework.

For further information on the forums contact: Darwin Forum– Ms Toni Vine Bromley, Darwin City Council – 8982 2560, Alice Springs Forum – Mr Damon Lewis – 8999 6127