The Northern Territory and Western Australia Governments will today put in place an historic agreement that will greatly improve policing services in remote communities around the NT/WA borders.

NT Police Minister Paul Henderson and his Western Australian counterpart Michelle Roberts will travel to Kintore (Walungurru) to sign a Statement of Intent that will see the jurisdictions enter into a partnership arrangement for policing the region.

"Police and community groups from the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjajara and Yankunytjatjara (NPY) lands - a large area stretching across South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia - have been meeting since May 2002 to discuss how to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities," Mr Henderson said.

"Today’s historic signing is an outcome of these ‘Operation Quadrant’ discussions, and is a clear commitment from both the Northern Territory and Western Australian Governments to work with the people of the area to create safer communities."

Mr Henderson said discussions were still ongoing with the South Australian Government.

This first agreement will see a WA Constable stationed with two NT Police officers and an Aboriginal Community Police Officer at the new Kintore Police Station.

In a reciprocal agreement, the WA Government has committed to building a Police Station at either Docker River in the NT or at Warakurna, 70kms away in Western Australia.

The arrangements for this station’s operation will mirror the arrangements for Kintore.

The $1.8M Kintore Police Station, a commitment from the Martin Labor Government, is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in mid-December.

The Kintore officers will police the communities in this area, including Kiwirrkurra community in WA, which is 1400km from the nearest WA Police station.

The police station to be built by WA will cover at least six communities in the area around Warakurna and Docker River, which is only 8kms from the WA border.

"This reciprocal agreement will be of great benefit to all the communities in the area," said Mr Henderson.
"Currently there is an Aboriginal Community Police Officer in Kintore, and the area around Docker River is policed from Yulara, some 240kms away.

"People living in the region will now have police officers as an immediate part of their community who will be able to respond to incidents more effectively and efficiently.

"The Northern Territory and Western Australia Police officers working at Kintore and the reciprocal WA police station will have Special Constable powers meaning they can police both sides of the border, and offenders will no longer be able to seek refuge by crossing the border to a nearby community.

"Today’s agreement is the result of months of hard work by many people, and I pay tribute to the dedication of all involved in seeing this initiative come to fruition."

Mr Henderson said the next step of the process will be the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Northern Territory Police Commissioner Paul White and Western Australia Police Commissioner Barry Matthews.

Ms Roberts and Mr Henderson will also travel to Docker River and Warakurna today to meet with community representatives to update them on the agreement.