The Government is hard at work developing a Territory-wide Planning Scheme and Land Use Objectives for key areas.

Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Kon Vatskalis said establishing these key elements of the planning framework are critical for the Territory’s future.

"Cabinet has given the go-ahead for the further development of this scheme which will provide for a consistent planning framework for the Territory," Mr Vatskalis told Parliament today.

"The next stage will be public display of the issues of the Planning Scheme - which we will be doing in the next couple of months – and then extensive public consultation with all stakeholders later in the year.

"I am very pleased with the progress this Government is making in setting into place key elements of our planning framework. It is critical for our future."

Mr Vatskalis said Land Use Objectives (LUOs) for key areas include -

**Finniss/Marrakai:**
LUOs for each area were exhibited in 1999. The work was subsequently separated and the Finniss subregion LUOs are before Government for determination.

"It is the intention of this Government to deal with the matters raised in a speedy fashion as further development of this area has been frozen pending final decision on some critical issues," Mr Vatskalis said.

"Further development of the LUOs for the Marrakai subregion requires further consultation with landowners and other stakeholders and will progress independently."

**Litchfield:**
The Litchfield LUOs have been on public display and the Development Consent Authority (DCA) heard submissions on April 2. The DCA’s report on the hearing has been received and a final decision is expected soon.

"I am particularly pleased to advise that in the case of public comment on the LUOs, my Department advised all respondents of their consideration of the issues they raised," Mr Vatskalis said.

"It is this responsiveness to public issues that I intend to make the hallmark of this Government’s approach to planning matters."

**Darwin southern suburbs/Nightcliff/Darwin Central 2:**
The previous Government promised LUOs for the southern suburbs prior to the 1997 election. They have never materialised.

"I am proud to announce that in nine months of Government I now have LUOs for the southern suburbs," Mr Vatskalis said.

"We also have LUOs for Darwin Central 2 and Nightcliff.

"My office has briefed the Parap Residents Association, local members and the Opposition.

"Advance copies of the LUOs have been sent to the Darwin City Council
and relevant aldermen will be briefed tonight," Mr Vatskalis said.

"We will also brief the Stuart Park Residents Association in the near future."

Mr Vatskalis said when the briefings are complete, the LUOs will go on public display for two months, one month longer than stipulated in the interest of public consultation.

"These documents will be draft documents and we will take all public comment seriously and each person or group who submits comment will be advised of our consideration of their views," Mr Vatskalis said.