Charles Darwin University will be one step closer to reality when legislation allowing for its creation is introduced in Territory Parliament tomorrow.

Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling, who gave notice of the legislation during today’s Parliamentary sittings, said this was the single greatest reform of higher education in the Northern Territory since the Northern Territory University (NTU) itself was established in 1990.

The proposed Charles Darwin University Bill will allow for the amalgamation of NTU and Centralian College in Alice Springs. It will implement a new structure for the university council, create a single academic board, establish the new name and establish an Institute of Advanced Studies.

"With the creation of the Charles Darwin University, for the first time in the Territory’s history, we will have a single world-class facility, offering enhanced tertiary, training and research capacities," Mr Stirling said.

"It will combine and draw on the strengths of three previously separate facilities – NTU, Centralian College and Menzies School of Health Research.

"It will become an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the Northern Territory and will play a crucial role in the future prosperity of Territorians.

"Most importantly, it will provide many of our young people with a real alternative to studying interstate and staying there once they have completed their studies."

Mr Stirling said proposed amendments to the Menzies School of Health Research Act would also be introduced tomorrow to establish a close, formal relationship between the school and the university, while allowing the school to retain its independence.

"Establishing these close links between the two institutions is expected to attract an extra $3 million a year in Commonwealth research funding to Menzies and lead to increased capacity in health education and research for the Territory," he said.

"It also ensures that Menzies research staff are recognised in the Australian university sector as leaders in tropical and indigenous health research and post-graduate training."

Mr Stirling said Charles Darwin University was the start of an exciting new era in the Territory.

"The University will help us to capitalise on our existing strengths in the areas of training, higher education and research and become an integral part of our efforts to build a better, smarter Territory."