

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 5 2007

### **COMMITTEE WELCOMES EXPLORATORY TRIP TO CANBERRA**

#### **SUE BRADLEY AM, CO-CHAIR**

The Co-Chair of the Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee today welcomed the first bi-partisan visit to Canberra tomorrow by the Minister and Shadow Minister for Statehood to commence discussions with the Commonwealth on Northern Territory Statehood.

“This bipartisan approach is very important to the Territory; by doing this we can show the Commonwealth how serious the Territory is in getting the ball rolling.” Sue Bradley said.

It is understood the Territory representatives will outline to the Commonwealth that whoever forms Government after the next election will have to provide Territorians with information about what the Commonwealth will agree to about the terms and conditions of Statehood.

“Territorians have consistently told us they need to know what the terms and conditions of Statehood will be, we passed this on to our Territory leaders and it’s great to see they are going to talk to the Commonwealth about this. The voice of Territorians is getting through.

“The Commonwealth will need to tell us about things like the levels of representation in both houses of Federal Parliament and whether or not we are going to be an equal State.

“As part of our role, the Statehood Steering Committee will be discussing some of the big constitutional issues with Territorians in 2007; it will be good to be doing this knowing our locally elected leaders have taken the challenge to Canberra about how we would fit into the Australian federal system as a new State.”

The Statehood Steering Committee congratulates both the Territory Government and the Territory Opposition for taking this positive approach to Statehood and our future.

Commenting on behalf of the Committee, Sue said: “We look forward to a report back to all Territorians at the conclusion of the visit.”

*Statehood Minister Syd Stirling MLA and Shadow Statehood Minister Terry Mills MLA will meet the Commonwealth Attorney General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP and the Minister for Territories, the Hon Jim Lloyd MP at Parliament House in Canberra on Tuesday 6 February 2007.*

Media Inquiries - Statehood Steering Committee: Michael Tatham 0401 119 570  
Minister for Statehood: Michelle Fraser 0407 642 011  
Shadow Minister for Statehood: Greg Charter (08) 8901 4188

