

MEDIA RELEASE

May 28 2007

Statehood Committee Welcomes Commonwealth Committee's Recommendation

**BARBARA McCARTHY MLA, COMMITTEE CHAIR
SUE BRADLEY AM, COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR**

The Statehood Steering Committee today welcomed the recommendation of the House of Representatives Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs that said:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government update and refine its position on Northern Territory Statehood and recommence work on unresolved federal issues.

Statehood Committee Chair, Barbara McCarthy called upon the two Territory representatives and the two Senators in the Commonwealth Parliament to continue to take the issue forward with the Commonwealth to ensure Territorians have a better understanding of what Statehood may mean for our future.

"We all have a role to play and we know that our colleagues representing the Territory in Canberra, irrespective of their political allegiances, support the political development of the Territory, today we ask them to use their influence to ensure the Commonwealth treats Statehood seriously." Barbara McCarthy said.

"Our Commonwealth Representatives have a pivotal role to play in informing all Australians of the importance and the benefits of Territory Statehood and I look forward to reading their responses to the Report in the coming few days."

Committee Co-Chair Sue Bradley said she was feeling quietly confident as a result of the report today. "This report recognises that Territorians need to be informed about the Commonwealth's intentions on Statehood if it is to go forward."

The terms and conditions of Statehood under the Commonwealth Constitution must be known by all Territorians prior to any referendum on Statehood."

"The report is titled *The Long Road to Statehood* and we agree with that, and getting to the right destination on that road is vitally important, we can do it if there is willingness on the part of Territorians and goodwill on the part of the Commonwealth."

The House of Representative Committee released the report at lunchtime today.

The Report is the result of seminars the Commonwealth Committee conducted in the Northern Territory during November 2006 as well as other research and hearings.

The Report can be seen at –

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/ntstatehood/report.htm>

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