

## MEDIA RELEASE

October 17 2005

# SUE BRADLEY CO CHAIR STATEHOOD FORUM – GET THE FACTS

A Public Forum organised by the Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee will officially launch the Statehood Steering Committee's commitment to community discussion on Statehood in the Northern Territory.

On **Wednesday 16 November at 7.00pm** the Statehood Steering Committee will –

- Launch the first 25 Fact Sheets on Statehood
- Officially launch the [www.statehood.nt.gov.au](http://www.statehood.nt.gov.au) website and;
- Convene a Public Forum at Charles Darwin University

The Forum will take place at Theatre 2201 Charles Darwin University on the 16<sup>th</sup> and be repeated at Palmerston High School (in the Theatrette) on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.00pm**. Further meetings will be planned throughout the Territory in 2006.

Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee Co-Chair Sue Bradley encouraged as many people as possible to get involved and ***Get the Facts***;

"It is a great opportunity for Territorians to see what we have been working on over the first few months of the Committee's existence, to get the facts, to ask questions, and give us their views" she said.

"We will be welcoming a panel of presenters from Charles Darwin University with plenty of opportunity for comment from the public.

Statehood has been on the agenda before, but now it is more important than ever, demonstrated by;

- The Commonwealth's expressed commitment to override existing Territory laws in relation to a proposed radioactive waste facility;
- Reports indicate any Territory right to be heard in the High Court will be denied on this issue;
- Recent Commonwealth Government moves which will override Territory Government policy on uranium mining;
- Unwillingness by the Commonwealth to cooperate with the Territory on safari hunting of crocodiles.

Territorians are encouraged to be part of discussion about how we want our Territory to be governed. I urge everyone to come along. We need to know whether Territorians are happy to stay as we are or if we want more say over our own lives.



“Don’t leave it to someone else; the best way to have your say is to come and get involved.” Sue Bradley said outlining the theme of the Forum ***Statehood – Get the Facts***

Panel members from the Statehood Steering Committee will be joined by

- David Carment, Professor of History, Charles Darwin University
- Ted Dunstan, PhD student in Law, Charles Darwin University
- Ian Thynne, Professor of Governance, Charles Darwin University

Statehood Public Forums are direct community talk-back where everyone is welcome to express their views, get their copies of the Fact Sheets and take part in a community driven process. For more information contact the Office of the Statehood Steering Committee [statehood@nt.gov.au](mailto:statehood@nt.gov.au)

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