



**Karl Hampton**  
MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

29 AUGUST 2008

## **International Cricket Returns to the Territory**

Tomorrow's first game of the Commonwealth Bank One Day series will see top level cricket return to Darwin's TIO Stadium, Sport and Recreation Minister Karl Hampton said today.

"This series is a great chance for those in the Territory to see the elite of Australia's cricketing talent in action," Mr Hampton said.

The teams competing in the Commonwealth Bank Series are Australia and Bangladesh.

The series includes three One Day International matches, played at TIO Stadium on 30 August, 3 and 6 September 2008.

The Northern Territory Government has delivered an agreement worth \$2.1 million to secure this cricket series for Darwin. Cricket Australia also provided an additional \$1 million. This agreement includes facility improvements for Garden's Oval to support grass roots cricket along with the upgrade and maintenance of the practice facilities at TIO Stadium to ensure they are to standard for international games.

Although a couple of the well known Australian players are missing from the team Territorians will still be treated to world class play. With the likes of Tasmanian, Brett Geeves stepping into the national squad along with stars such as Andrew Symonds we will surely see some amazing play.

"Territorians are big cricket fans and the games are expected to be very popular," Mr Hampton said.

"I encourage all Territorians to come along to matches with family and friends in support of international cricket games in the Territory.

"Two 30 tonne drop in wickets were installed in July at TIO Stadium, and the ground is in fantastic condition for the cricket series," Mr Hampton said.

A free bus service, courtesy of the Northern Territory Government, will be provided on Saturday 30 August 2008.

"I encourage patrons to jump on one of these free services and head down to watch the cricket."

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