



**Dr Chris Burns**

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

29 May 2006

## **GOVERNMENT AWARDS \$4M CONTRACT FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN TOURIST LOOP ROAD**

The Government has awarded a contract worth more than \$4 million as part of its West MacDonnell Range Tourist Loop Roads project.

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns said Territory company Larapinta Constructions has been awarded the \$4,027,465 contract to provide gravel for the project.

Larapinta Constructions is a Joint Venture between Ntaria Council (Hermannsburg) and DAC Enterprises.

Under the contract, Larapinta Constructions will excavate, screen, crush and blend gravel at the intersection of Namatjira Drive and Haasts Bluff, commonly known as Beer Can Corner.

Dr Burns said there would be substantial employment and training provided for under the contract.

“As it is a Joint Venture, Ntaria Council will benefit directly from the contract,” Dr Burns said.

“While DAC will provide much of the plant and management, Ntaria has purchased a 960 Cat loader and will provide people for training.”

Dr Burns said the project to upgrade the loop roads is part of the Government’s plans to enhance the tourism industry in Central Australia.

“These roads go through some of the most spectacular country in the Territory.

“By upgrading them to sealed standard, more Territorians and tourists will visit to enjoy this experience.

“The new roads will also drive economic development by creating jobs and business opportunities for Territorians, and will inject millions of dollars into the local economy.”

Dr Burns said \$13.9 million has been allocated to the project in the 2006/07 Budget.

*Contact: James Hook 0401 119 592*