



Paul Henderson
CHIEF MINISTER

4 December 2007

TRIBUTE TO STUART HIGHWAY PIONEERS

Chief Minister Paul Henderson has this morning paid tribute to all those who worked on the Stuart Highway as true Territory pioneers.

Unveiling a plaque commemorating the construction of the 1500 km section of the highway between Alice Springs and Darwin, Mr Henderson said the thousands of engineers, surveyors and workers who helped build the Highway should be remembered.

“Named for explorer John McDouall Stuart, the Stuart Highway crosses the broad spectrum of the Territory’s natural wonders from the desert of Central Australia to savannah grasslands and tropical wetlands in the North,” Mr Henderson said.

“Now one of the best roads in Australia, the Stuart Highway began as a dirt track servicing the construction of the Overland Telegraph in the 1870s and served to link the railheads until World War II.

“Working in our harsh climate without the help of the machinery and technology we take for granted today, civil and military engineers have over the years combined to construct an all-weather sealed road that is now part of the National Highway network.

“The pioneers who have worked on the Highway since the 1870s are to be commended and remembered as true community builders.”

Mr Henderson said the Territory Government continued to drive maintenance and upgrades to Territory roads.

“Roads are a vital arm of our economy, bringing in tourists, supporting the mining and cattle industries, and delivering food and products to our shops and stores,” said Mr Henderson.

“Budget 2007 delivers a record \$180 million infrastructure program for Territory roads and highways to ensure Territorians remain connected to the rest of Australia and the world.”

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