



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Inquiry: Northern Territory statehood seminar

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Chairman: Peter Slipper MP**

## Seminar on Northern Territory statehood

The House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will hold a three-day seminar in Alice Springs and Darwin on 14 – 16 November in relation to Northern Territory statehood.

The Committee has been asked by the Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, to hold the seminar and gather information both on statehood issues which could have implications for federal arrangements and on recent developments regarding statehood, including proposals to advance statehood.

Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP, indicated that the Committee will be coming to the Territory with an open mind. "The Committee will not be seeking to promote particular formulations or schemes regarding Northern Territory statehood", Mr Slipper said.

"Rather, the Committee wants to hear a range of views on the key statehood issues relevant to the relationship between the Territory and the Australian Government and on how the move towards statehood has been progressing", Mr Slipper added.

"The question of statehood raises complex matters for the people and Government of the Territory, and the Committee is conscious that many of these issues need to be worked through by Territorians", Mr Slipper said.

Along with recent developments on statehood, the seminar will explore issues such as the future status of Commonwealth land in the Northern Territory and Aboriginal land rights; Commonwealth constitutional matters and achieving statehood; representation of a new state in the federal Parliament and the future status of Commonwealth legislation currently applying to the Territory; future control of industrial relations and financial relations between a new state and the Commonwealth; mineral and uranium resource issues; and the future ownership and management of Commonwealth National Parks in the Territory and Marine Protected Areas.

The seminar will be held on **Tuesday, 14 November** at the **Alice Springs Convention Centre** from 10:25am – 2:45pm and on **Wednesday** and **Thursday, 15 – 16 November** at the **Northern Territory Parliament** (all day both days).

### For interview:

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Peter Slipper MP on (07) 5443 3555 (electorate office) or on (02) 6277 4975 (Canberra office).

Or Mr Slipper's media adviser, Richard Bruinsma, on 0417 486 673.

**For further information**, including the terms of reference, a program, an information paper, and copies of submissions, please visit the inquiry website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/ntstatehood/index.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

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