First Ministers’ Forum to build on relationship between the Territory and South Australia

1 September 2015

A First Ministers’ Forum in Alice Springs this week will build on the Northern Territory’s historical relationship with South Australia to develop social, economic and investment opportunities to benefit both Territorians and South Australians.

Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles and South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill will meet on Thursday for the inaugural First Ministers’ Forum to discuss progress of priority issues.

Mr Giles said the meeting followed the signing of a five year Memorandum of Understanding in April that marked a significant commitment to collaboration between South Australia and the Northern Territory.

“This agreement will see the Northern Territory and South Australia work closely together on projects that develop economic and investment opportunities, grow tourism, support environmental conservation, develop the arts, and build efficient service delivery across borders,” he said.

“South Australia and the Northern Territory have worked closely together on iconic projects such as the Overland Telegraph line and the Darwin to Adelaide railway line, and we want to further develop those connections and economic opportunities.

“I am particularly keen to work with the South Australian Government to enhance and strengthen cross border servicing of remote Aboriginal communities to deliver social and economic improvements.

“I would like to thank Premier Weatherill for his co-operation and look forward to further developing our great working relationship to the benefit of both Territorians and South Australians.”

The forum will provide an opportunity for the First Ministers and senior officials to explore current areas of collaboration including:

- Establishing a partnership between the NT and SA Governments to share lessons, strategies and business development opportunities for natural and cultural based tourism to attract investors from emerging markets;

- Support for a regional approach to camel management including enterprise development and camel removal;
• Ongoing development of the Digital Telehealth Network to provide remote delivery of health services via video and telecommunications technology;

• Building capability through technology and information sharing between police and emergency services, providing a stronger platform to tackle joint issues such as ice and domestic violence;

• Collaborative work in relation to mining including showcasing the mineral investment potential of SA and the NT to investors and advancing joint geoscience initiatives.

Media Contact: Scott Whitby 0438 531 583