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MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

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PAPER TABLED
6/10/04
CLERK: [Signature]

26 AUG 2004

Hon. Jim Lloyd MP
Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

ORIGINAL PAPER
No. 1479
Laid upon the Table
6/10/04

Dear Minister

As you are aware, the equitable distribution of road funding is a matter of vital importance to Territorians.

The following motion was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory in Debates on 25 August 2004:

The Assembly noting:

- (a) the shortfall of some \$20m in Commonwealth funding for unincorporated Territory roads under the current Roads to Recovery program;
- (b) promises made to Territorians by the Prime Minister and other Commonwealth ministers that the inequity in the Territory's road funding would be addressed;
- (c) the increase in road funding committed to this year by the Martin Labor Government that seeks to cover part of this gap,
- (d) the effort made by the Commonwealth through the Roads to Recovery program to respond to the situation with increased funding;
- (e) the achievements of our Northern Territory federal representatives, the Northern Territory Cattlemen Association and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory to highlight these issues;

Calls on the Commonwealth to urgently address this shortfall in unincorporated road funding for the Territory by:

- (1) immediately providing \$20m to cover the existing shortfall; and*
- (2) providing equitable and appropriate ongoing funding that would allow the Northern Territory to properly maintain these roads.*

The Legislative Assembly further unanimously resolved that:

The entire debate on this issue be compiled and forwarded with a covering letter, co-signed by the Northern Territory Minister and Shadow Minister, to the responsible federal Minister.

Minister, we earnestly request you to read the enclosed copy of the debate. Despite the ranges of opinion expressed in the debate, it is highly noteworthy that the motion was endorsed unanimously.

This debate is clearly reflective of strongly held opinion in the Territory and expressed by Members of the Legislative Assembly and representatives of Local Government and industry peak bodies, notably the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association. In essence we believe the Territory is in need of equitable funding for our roads – particularly those roads through unincorporated areas.

Yours sincerely



CHRIS BURNS
Minister for
Transport and Infrastructure



DENIS BURKE
Shadow Minister for
Transport and Infrastructure