



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
SENATOR THE HON ERIC ABETZ B.A., LLB.

RECEIVED

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15 February 1999

Hon Shane Stone MLA and
Mrs Josephine Stone
GPO Box 4196
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Shane and Josephine

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 1999 informing me of your retirement as Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.

Your resignation was indeed a surprise to me, and was the topic of conversation, as I moved around the Northern Territory fulfilling my responsibilities in the Defence portfolio early last week.

It is never an easy task to decide when the right time is to depart these roles, but I commend you for electing a smooth transition for the sake of the Country Liberal Party, your Ministerial and Parliamentary colleagues, and all Territorians.

During your term as Chief Minister, you have achieved a great deal for the Northern Territory for which you can be proud, most notable in my mind is the excellent relationship you have developed with our regional neighbours.

My very best wishes are extended to you, Josephine and the family, as you complete your parliamentary term in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and as you explore exciting new opportunities in the business sector.

With sincere best wishes,

ERIC ABETZ