



Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald

Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government

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17 FEB 1999

Mr Shane Stone, QC, MLA
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

15 FEB 1999

Dear Mr Stone,

On your relinquishing the Chief Ministership, I express the Commonwealth's deep appreciation of your contribution to good relations between the Federal and NT Governments, throughout your leadership of the Territory.

In particular, your appreciation of the issues surrounding the sometimes overlapping residual responsibilities under the *Northern Territory (Self Government) Act* has been of assistance to me and my predecessors as Territories Minister.

I share the Prime Minister's wish that you may be able to offer further service to the country in a different capacity, given your enormous contribution already not only to NT public life, but to the national scene.

In closing, thank you for the kind regards you conveyed to me and my wife in your letter of 8 February, which are warmly reciprocated to you and your family.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ian Macdonald