It’s now Charles Darwin University

By CHRIS CARTER

The Northern Territory University will become Charles Darwin by the middle of this year, Chief Minister Clare Martin said yesterday.

And a new research centre will be part of the university.

The Institute of Advanced Studies will be made up of four research schools:

- **HEALTH** including tropical and infectious diseases;
- **RESOURCE** and ecosystem management, including wildlife conservation;
- **ENERGY** and infrastructure, particularly overcoming problems in a tropical climate; and
- **SOCIAL** policy and governance, including substance abuse.

The institute will be based at the university’s Casuarina campus in Darwin.

The Charles Darwin University will be an amalgamation of NTU in Darwin and the Centralian College at Alice Springs.

It will have ties with the Menzies School of Health, the Darwin-based medical research centre.

The university is being remodelled partly because of the poor reputation of the NTU in academic circles.

Ms Martin said the university would try to eliminate the need for students to go interstate or overseas for tertiary-level education.

“It is crucial that we make this investment in our young people so they have the option to undertake their tertiary studies or training right here,” she said.

“We are still producing fine graduates here but we’ve had to do a restructure.

“The Territory is on the brink of some exciting new developments that will see it grow both economically and socially. The Charles Darwin University will play an important role in this development.”

A 13-member council will run the university and Centralian College executive director Don Zoellner will become the TAFE pro vice-chancellor.

NT Government funding for the university has increased by $1.5 million to $6.5 million next financial year.