



‘I think the Territory is going places — it has got a good buzz about it’

Professor Garnett ... foundation head of the new Charles Darwin University

Nuclear scientist to head university

By PAUL DYER

The head of the controversial Lucas Heights nuclear reactor in Sydney will be the next Vice-Chancellor of the NT University.

The university announced yesterday internationally-renowned scientist Professor Helen Garnett will replace outgoing Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken McKinnon in mid-October.

Professor Garnett, 56, has been the chief executive of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation for more than nine years.

The organisation oversees the operations of the Lucas Height reactor.

Professor Garnett was instrumental in gaining extra funding for the \$300 million replacement research re-

actor, which is expected to be completed in 2005.

She is also a representative to the UN International Atomic Energy Agency.

Professor Garnett said she was excited by the prospect of being the foundation Vice-Chancellor of the new Charles Darwin University from 2004.

“I think the NT is going places — it has got a good buzz about it,” she said.

Under Charles Darwin University, the institution will merge with the Centralian College at Alice Springs and Darwin’s Menzies School of Health.

Professor Garnett said she would push for a greater focus on issues that directly affect the NT. “There is a lot of opportunity there to focus ... on tropical and desert studies and other issues of relevance to the Territory,” she said.