21 February 2008

Local Government Bill Introduced

The Northern Territory Government introduced legislation to Parliament today to continue the process of local government reform across the Territory.

Minister for Local Government, Rob Knight said reforming local government is crucial to the bush.

“This reform is well overdue. While there are some councils which do a great job under difficult circumstances, there are many councils which are failing to deliver essential services,” said Mr Knight.

“The majority of councils in regional areas need and want help.”

“We’ve listened to the unique concerns of Litchfield residents and like the urban areas of Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs, Litchfield shire will remain unchanged.

“Local government reform in the Top End Shire is off the agenda.

“The reform process will continue in all other areas, bringing enormous benefits to regional communities.”

“Duplication in the current system of regional administration will be removed and shires will become streamlined and more efficient so funding can be spent on improving services.”

“Following normal parliamentary procedures, the tabled legislation will be publicly available and open for amendments for the next three months.”

“During that time I will be hitting the road to listen to people in the bush across all eight of the new shires.”

Media Contact: Bethaney Jensen 0423 593 999

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