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$221M Outstation investment welcome news for the Territory

Indigenous Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today welcomed the Australian Government’s $221 million investment into Territory community outstations and homelands under the Stronger Futures policy.

The Northern Territory will have a key role in administering this outstation support program with outstation service providers across the Territory.

“We welcome this 10 year funding commitment given by the Australian Government today,” said Minister McCarthy.

“Far from being “embarrassed” as claimed by the CLP’s Adam Giles – today’s announcement is actually the result of the hard lobbying the Territory has done over the last three years and it’s clear that we have been listened to.

“The CLP professes to support outstations and homelands but have no plans on how they would do that.

“The CLP’s own shadow parliamentary secretary for Indigenous Development had this to say in December 2008: “many remote outstations are home to mainly birds and lizards and the government can’t continue to fund them”. We have not heard any recent advance on that position.

“The Territory Government has always supported and recognised the importance of Outstations - they are integral to Territory communities and are important for better health and education outcomes.

“Today’s announcement provides long-term certainty and clarity for outstations and homelands residents about the type of support available from the Territory and Australian governments over the next 10 years.

“We look forward to working further with the Australian Government and local outstation service providers to enhance this package.”

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