Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

New fleet of Police boats to protect the Top End coast

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A $2.7 million fleet of new Police boats will soon be on their way to communities across the Top End.

At East Arm this afternoon, the Chief Minister, Adam Giles, and NT Police Commissioner, John McRoberts, officially inspected the nine boats that are about to go into operational service.

“The Territory Government is committed to giving Police the tools they need to keep the community safe and these nine, state of the art boats will be an important addition to the Water Police fleet,” Mr Giles said.

“As Territorians hit the water over the Christmas break they can have peace of mind that our Police are well equipped to tackle any problems that may arise. These boats will allow faster, more reliable responses in emergencies, as well as safer transport for our Water Police.

“A recent review identified the need for new specially fitted out vessels that could operate right along the Northern Territory’s 10,000km coastline and comply with new national safety requirements.”

The fleet includes one 11.3 metre Naiad vessel funded by the Territory Government and eight 6.9 metre Stabicraft Super Cab vessels funded through the ‘Closing the Gap National Partnership Agreement’ between the Northern Territory and Federal Governments.

NT Police Commissioner John McRoberts said the Naiad and the Stabicraft vessels will significantly enhance the capabilities of the NT Water Police in a number of key areas.

“The vessels will increase the visibility of NT Police on Territory waters to ensure increased compliance with and enforcement of the Fisheries Act and other relevant legislation,” Commissioner McRoberts said.

“The new vessels will enhance our detection and disruption of the trafficking by sea and river of illicit substances such as alcohol and drugs to remote communities.

“The capabilities of these new vessels will also reduce the response time for marine search and rescue and make it easier to find survivors of marine accidents.”
The vessels will provide NT Police with a waterborne ‘Forward Control Point’ for incidents of Territory and national significance including detection of illegal immigrants, counter terrorism activities and addressing high risk marine incidents.

The Naiad will be permanently based in Darwin. The eight Stabicraft Super Cab vessels will be positioned at Police stations at Wadeye, Pirlingimpi, Maningrida, Galiwinku, Nhulunbuy, Alyangula, Borroloola and Ngukurr.

The boats are expected to be delivered to their new stations by the end of the month.

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