Better Future for Alice Town Camps

Chief Minister Paul Henderson, Indigenous Policy Minister Alison Anderson and Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton today welcomed and fully supported the Rudd Government’s announcement that it was moving to compulsorily acquire the Alice Springs town camps.

Mr Henderson said that this would mean a better future for the entire community of Alice Springs.

“This decision will result in $100 million being spent by the Rudd Government on improving housing and living conditions in the town camps – and a further $25 million for health, substance abuse services and infrastructure across Alice Springs,” Mr Henderson said.

“We have been working closely with Minister Macklin and the Rudd Government throughout this process and fully support the moves to improve living conditions in these town camps.

“The conditions in the camps are unacceptable and we will now work with the Rudd Government to make sure the children in these camps have a chance for a better life.”

Minister Anderson said the current situation in the town camps could not be allowed to continue.

“We need to act to improve housing, education and health and step up the fight against substance abuse, violence, child abuse and neglect,” she said.

“We are working hard with the Rudd Government to improve the lives of Indigenous people across the Territory and the Alice Springs town camps will be no exception.”

Mr Hampton said the announcement was good news for Alice Springs and a major change the town needed.

“This will complement our other measures, such as the $20 Million Youth Action Plan, to provide a better future for children and families in Alice Springs, particularly those in the town camps.”

Minister Macklin has said acquisition will not take effect before July 6, and has urged Tangentyere to reconsider.

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