Regional development is the focus of Canberra talks

Regional Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy is in Canberra today to ensure that Territorians do not miss out on a $10 billion regional Australia election commitment by the Federal Government.

Minister McCarthy said that regional Australia has become the focus of the Federal Parliament since the recent election and Territorians will benefit by the extra funding.

“The Northern Territory is well placed to receive a substantial amount of this funding to boost infrastructure, health, education and improved communications networks for all Territorians with the roll out of the National Broadband Network,” said Ms McCarthy.

“I am putting the case for the Territory and making sure that Territorians get a slice of the pie.”

Ms McCarthy will also meet with her federal colleagues across the Indigenous, tourism and regional development portfolios as well as with other federal parliamentarians on Constitutional issues and the centenary of the Northern Territory in 2011.

“Regional development is a major focus of the Territory Government’s A Working Future policy particularly in relation to creating more jobs in the bush
and to developing major towns into regional economic and service delivery centres.

“Next year, as a part of A Working Future, we will hold Futures Forums in all of our Territory Growth Towns and I am seeking the federal government’s partnership on further developing our regional centres.

“The Futures Forums bring regional communities together with government, business and community organisations to explore how they can all work together to improve the lives of families in their towns.

“It is important that the Territory Government actively pursue continued Federal support on these issues and to further strengthen our relations with the Federal Parliament.

“Also, next year the Territory Government will host both the National Tourism Minister's Council and the international tourism trade show Corroboree 2011 in Darwin and I will discuss this and other tourism issues with Tourism Minister, Martin Ferguson – including the centenary of the Northern Territory.”

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