Remote communities on Groote Eylandt will have improved access to health, education and economic opportunities with the $20 million upgrade of the entire length of Umbakumba Road.

The Territory Government today announced the successful tender for the job was awarded to Fulton Hogan Construction Pty Ltd.

Indigenous Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy, said that more than 45 kilometres of the existing gravel road will be upgraded into a two-lane sealed road.

“Umbakumba Road is an important link between Umbakumba on the east of Groote Eylandt and Angurugu on the west, and it traverses floodplains as well as rocky areas and sand dunes,” said Ms McCarthy.

“Sealing the entire length of Umbakumba Road will make a huge difference to the quality of life for the residents on Groote Eylandt as they will be able to move between communities with ease throughout the year and with improved travel times.

“Work is expected to start mid-May and be completed by early 2012, and this project will also provide up to 20 local Indigenous jobs.”

Minister McCarthy said that the Territory Government’s has invested $5.5 million towards the project. In addition, the Australian Government has contributed $9.5 million, and $5 million will be provided by the Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation (GEBIE).

GEBIE is the business arm of the Anindilyakwa Land Council.


Media Contact: Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507