Local Government Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today attended the Ntaria Futures Forum, 130 kilometres west of Alice Springs.

Minister McCarthy said the aim of the Futures Forums is to assist Territory Growth Town resident’s access information on all government, non-government and private sector programs and services resulting in employment and economic development opportunities.

“Ntaria is a Territory Growth Town and this two-day forum is held with the support of the Woala Nyinta Ntaria Local Reference Group,” she said.

“The first part of the Ntaria Futures Forum took place last Thursday and focused on the younger members of the community being introduced to the concept of business, jobs and career planning.

“Today focuses on the adult community members providing them with opportunities to hear from existing Indigenous business owners, organisations who support business development and to learn about employment opportunities.

“The local reference group and all levels of government agreed to the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) for Ntaria in March 2011 which set the priorities for the community including targets, actions, success measures and timelines for achieving these priorities.

“Key priorities identified in this plan relating to economic development include local people owning and running their own business and more jobs and training.

“This is the second Futures Forum to be held in the Territory – the first was in Ngukurr last year - and they will be held progressively in each of the Territory Growth Towns.”

**Media Contact:** Ursula Raymond  0457 825 507