ADAM GILES
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DRIVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

4th December, 2012

The way ahead for local government reform will be driven by the guidance of a 21-member group of stakeholders from across the Territory.

Local Government Minister Adam Giles has announced funding of $6.2 million over four years to develop and implement reform to local government in the Northern Territory.

“The membership of this Regional Governance Working Group consists of community elders, land councils, representatives of shires and municipal councils, Industry and Desert Knowledge Australia,” Mr Giles said.

“A review of the functions and responsibilities of Shires and Councils was a key item in the election commitments of the Country Liberals Government and we are already delivering on this.”

“As the Minister for Local Government I have already begun addressing concerns raised about our shires and councils’ level of performances in service delivery.”

Mr Giles said the need to review the current shire structure was born out of necessity as highlighted in the former Labor Government’s Financial Sustainability Review that concluded – “in the longer term the shires are unsustainable in that they do not have sufficient income to maintain their current asset base”.

“As a proactive Minister wanting to seek solutions to an inherited problem, I have formed the Regional Governance Working Group to provide advice on shire reform,” Mr Giles said.

Mr Giles said the objectives of the Regional Governance Working Group will be to develop an options paper that will provide a regional and remote insight allowing the NT Government to strengthen community governance by:

- Ensuring that local government is respectful of cultural authority and is connected with the people it governs;
- That services are being delivered to an acceptable standard; and
- Like other levels of government, it is accountable for its use of public money.
Members of the Regional Governance Working Group are:

- Marie Ellis, Amoonguna
- Alison Hunt, Mutitjulu
- Bunduk Marika, Yirrkala
- Tobias Nganbe, Wadeye
- Nelson Hall, Ngukurr
- Samuel Evans, Borroloola
- Bobby Wurrugmurra, Gapuwiyak
- Harold Wilson, Nganmarriyanga
- Bobby Nunggumajbarr, Ngukurr
- Tom Kairupan, Canteen Creek
- Norbert Patrick, Central Desert Shire
- Gibson Farmer, Tiwi Land Council
- Lionel Jaragba, Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Matthew Ryan, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
- Tony Wurrarmarrba, Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Sam Bush-Blanasi, Northern Land Council
- Lindsay Bookie, Central land Council
- Luke Bowen, NT Cattleman’s Association
- Drew Wagner, Minerals Council NT
- Fred Chaney, Desert Knowledge Australia.

The Chairperson of the group is Alice Springs Town Council mayor and Local Government Association of the Northern Territory president Damien Ryan.