FIRE FIGHTERS REMAIN ON ALERT

11 January, 2013

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Adam Giles has praised the efforts of Bushfires NT staff and volunteers who remain on standby to respond to bushfires in the Red Centre this weekend.

The weather bureau is predicting extreme conditions this weekend in Central Australia and residents are being warned to take safety precautions if necessary as the worst of the fire danger may be yet to come.

Mr Giles said all current fires are being monitored and Central Australian residents should continue to take care in the area, especially between 11am and 3pm tomorrow when the fire danger risk will be at its peak.

He said fire crews are today out in the district meeting pastoralists and assessing the need for any further preventative work and that landholders should act immediately to do what they can to protect property and lives.

“Over the past three days, local crews have spent considerable hours fighting fires and all nine fire fighting appliances currently available in Alice Springs have been deployed to various fires across Central Australia.

Mr Giles said extra crews from the Darwin area are helping relieve local fire fighters in Central Australia who are exhausted from battling blazes at Kings Canyon, Ross River and Pine Hill.

“A big thank you to the Parks and Wildlife, Bushfires NT staff and volunteers who, with little thought for themselves, have been engaged during the past few days battling fires across Central Australia,” Mr Giles said.

He said the series of fires had burnt in excess of 345,800 hectares since Monday.

Mr Giles said an Incident Management Team is to be rostered on duty on Saturday and it is anticipated that with local volunteers being supplemented with Darwin crews, that there will be sufficient capacity to respond quickly to any outbreak of fire. For more information on Bushfires NT or how to protect your property from wildfire please visit - http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/bushfires

Media Contact: Bruce Cutler 0457509133
www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801