A ‘CAPITAL’ EFFORT IN DARWIN TOWN CAMPS

30 July 2013

The Country Liberals Government is improving the standard of living for residents of Town Camps in Darwin and Palmerston through the Capital Infrastructure Grants program.

Infrastructure grants, totalling $2.7 million, will be invested across Town Camps in the Darwin and Palmerston area through the Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation, the peak body for provision of housing management and maintenance services.

- Bagot and Kulaluk will each receive $800,000 for dwelling refurbishment
- Knuckey Lagoon has $900,000 set aside a prioritised list of works currently being negotiated with the residents
- One Mile Dam will receive $150,000 for upgrades to communal and residential dwellings and upgrades to power supply.
- Palmerston will receive $40,000 to install power card metres to ensure residents are paying an equitable fee for power

Work on the Bagot and Palmerston Indigenous villages is currently underway with Kulaluk, One Mile Dam and Knuckey Lagoon anticipated to begin shortly.

Minister for Regional Development, Alison Anderson, says these works will bring many dwellings back up to habitable standards which will alleviate overcrowding, a common problem in Town Camps.

“This government’s commitment to Town Camps has been clear, we want to work with residents to target the problem areas they identify, not impose blanket solutions across the board,” Ms Anderson said.

“Through the Town Camp Taskforce we are working closely with community leaders and residents and it has become abundantly clear that we need tailored solutions to deliver sustainable results.

“This first round of works will address some fundamental problems residents in Town Camps face, like overcrowding, unsafe houses and lack of basic services.

“Some of the houses that will receive refurbishment have been vacant for up to eight years with unsafe electrical and plumbing systems, this puts pressure on the remaining dwellings and increases maintenance costs.

“This investment is only the beginning of the government’s commitment to improving the standard of living on Town Camps across the Territory, there is still much more work to be done and we are up to the task.”

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