COMMUNITY INPUT SOUGHT ON FUTURE OF GOVE

10 December 2013

A public information session will be held in Gove on Thursday to discuss the formation of the Territory Government’s planned Community Advisory Committee.

“The Territory Government is committed to Gove remaining the regional centre for the East Arnhem Land and the delivery hub for government services. We want public input into what that will look like,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

The Government is establishing a Gove Community Advisory Committee to support the transition process after Rio Tinto’s announcement that operations at the Gove Alumina Refinery will be suspended.

“We want the public to be actively involved in this process. The Community Advisory Committee will disseminate information and provide community input into planning for the future of the East Arnhem Region,” Mr Giles said.

“The Territory Government’s representative on the ground in Gove, Mike Chiodo, will hold a public meeting at 5pm on Thursday at the Nhulunbuy Town Hall to give information on the Community Advisory Committee’s terms of reference and begin the nomination process.

“The Advisory Committee will meet at least fortnightly and will be made up of nominated representatives from key East Arnhem community and business groups.”

Nominations are open until 13 December and anyone interested in participating should come to the public information session on Thursday or drop into the Gove Community Support Centre.

The Territory Government hopes to finalise membership by early next week, with the first meeting to be held before Christmas.

“Via two representatives, the Community Advisory Committee will feed vital community information into the high-level Gove Taskforce which includes Rio Tinto, the Northern Land Council, the Territory and Australian governments and is charged with developing sustainable economic activities for the region,” Mr Giles said.

“The Territory Government will complement efforts by Rio Tinto to retain as much of the population as possible through the creation of new jobs and economic activity in the East Arnhem Region.

“The Territory Government is committed to ensuring that there will be sufficient public services to meet the needs of the community and the region going forward.”

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