Media Release

David Tollner, Member for Fong Lim
Minister for Corporate and Information Services

Territory Government and Telstra deliver world-class telecommunications to 13 remote communities

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The Northern Territory Government and Telstra are about to complete a major $5.76 million project to deliver mobile phone coverage and internet access to 13 bush communities.

Minister for Corporate and Information Services, Dave Tollner and Telstra Area General Manager for the Northern Territory, Brian O’Keefe inspected one of the latest mobile phone towers to be commissioned at Peppimenarti this afternoon.

Mr Tollner said the Territory Government was working to deliver real improvements in the bush and this project has resulted in 13 remote communities enjoying the same level of telecommunication services as those in cities and regional centres.

“The Territory comprises more than 1 million square kilometres and delivering telecommunications infrastructure through that land mass is a huge challenge,” Mr Tollner said.

“As a result of the joint project with Telstra, eight communities now have access to 3G mobile phone services and six communities have access to ADSL2+ broadband. This will make a vast difference to these communities and opens up real opportunities in the areas of health and education.

“The Northern Territory Government and Telstra worked together on identifying the sites for the rollout, with a variety of network technical considerations taken into account in delivering the new services.

The communities connected the 3G mobile network are:

- Ampilatwatja
- Arlparra
- Barrow Creek (Completion expected by the end of July)
- Newcastle Waters (Completion expected by the end of July)
- Palumpa
• · Papunya
• · Peppimenarti.
• · Mutijulu (Completion expected by the end of July)

The communities connected to ADSL2+ broadband are:

• · Elliot
• · Hermannsberg
• · Ngukurr
• · Numbulwar
• · Mutijulu
• · Wadeye

Mr Tollner said the project was a model of co-operation, with Telstra, the Territory Government, local councils, traditional owners and land councils all embracing the project and keen to make it happen.

“These new services have been delivered on time and on budget in some of the remotest parts of our country.

“I would like to congratulate Telstra for the company’s enthusiasm for this project and preparedness to commit to the challenge to construct world-class technology in some of the most remote and harsh environments in Australia.

“The Territory Government is proud to have played its role in delivering such a major telecommunications upgrade in the bush. This project represents a tangible commitment by the Giles Government to deliver real improvements to Territory bush communities.

“Improved telecommunication will enable benefits of technology to open new opportunities in areas such as health and education to communities who may have never through it possible to be able to seek medical advice for instance through reliable phones or online.”

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