New barge landing gets underway

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The Country Liberals Government is continuing to deliver important new infrastructure to the Tiwi Islands with work set to start next week on the new $2 million barge landing at Wurrumiyanga.

“Rusca Brothers Services Pty Ltd have won the contract to build the barge landing which will employ 25 workers, including 10 Indigenous Territorians, some drawn from the local community,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The barge landing will provide a much-needed area for the distribution of freight arrivals, space for bulk storage and a large shed with an office, toilets, a freezer and cool room. This means fresher food Tiwi Islanders.

“The money was allocated in the last budget and I am proud the Country Liberals are now making this project happen, creating jobs for Indigenous people in the process.

“It means secure, sheltered storage for deliveries, protecting them against king tide flooding and heavy wet season rain. More efficient freight services will also reduce the cost of living for people on the Tiwis.”

The new barge landing has been warmly welcomed by local Member for Arafura, Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu.

“This is important infrastructure for Tiwi residents who receive most of their goods by sea. I have been lobbying for this since I entered parliament and I am very happy to see that work is about to begin,” Mr Kurrupuwu said.

Lights will be installed to enable barges to load and unload safely at night from the new facility. There will also be a truck parking bay, a car park area and a 6m x 18m concrete structure for accepting aggregates and loose products.

“Transport Infrastructure like this is a key enabler of economic growth and the Government is focused on building the transport links necessary for the development of Northern Australia,” Mr Giles said.
The Giles Government returned the ferry service to the Tiwi’s last September transporting thousands of passengers over its first 12 months of operation.

“The ferry is a great service for Tiwi Islanders who can now travel to and from Darwin more cheaply. It is also an easy way for tourists to come to the Tiwis and see our culture first hand. I hope tourism will bring many jobs to the Tiwi Islands in the future,” Mr Kurrupuwu said.

Sealink NT recently started using a new ferry on the Tiwi Islands route which is now able to land straight on the beach.

“This is a huge safety improvement for passengers who no longer need to use a barge to get between the ferry and the shore. This will be a welcome change as the wet season approaches and will allow for a more convenient and reliable ferry timetable for people living on the islands,” Mr Giles said.

(Please see attached photo of community representatives with the Chief Minister and local member at the barge landing site on Bathurst Island today)

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[Link to Barge Landing Pic]