Bess Price, Member for Stuart
Minister for Community Services

New bores provide sustainable water for remote outstations

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The completion of new bores in the remote Utopia Homelands in central Australia will ensure a long-term water supply for residents.

Minister for Community Services Bess Price said investigating possible options for bores at Amengernterneah and Pungalindum was a process that needed to be done correctly to ensure there was a reliable water supply well into the future.

“This government understands the importance of a secure, ongoing water supply and worked hard to make sure the new bores were built to a high standard to avoid another collapse,” Mrs Price said.

“This is great news for the people of the Utopia Homelands, who now have a sustainable water supply for years to come.

“Anyone who has lived in a desert region will appreciate the importance of consistent, long term access to water.

“This Government is working hard to provide critical water infrastructure for people living in remote areas.

“The failed bore at Amengernterneah was 30 years old and collapsed because of corrosion and poor construction, rather than water availability.

“While water was being trucked in regularly by the Barkly Regional Council, this was not sustainable long term.

“The new bore was built using stainless steel casing and included other recommendations by a hydro-geologist to avoid another collapse.

“A second bore was drilled nearby, pump tested and capped in order to ensure water security into the future.”

While the drill rig was in the region, a bore was also drilled at the Pungalindum outstation.

Pungalindum had been without a sustainable water supply for almost 12 months, relying on water to be regularly trucked in.
“This worked in the short term, however there needed to be a long-term fix, which this government has delivered,” Mrs Price said.

The new bore will be equipped and operational within the next fortnight.

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