Media Release

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

STATEMENT- Katherine Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee

13 February 2015

The first meeting of the Katherine Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee was held today, attended by all members. Committee Chair and Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe was elected spokesperson for the Committee.

The formation of the Katherine Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee was announced by Chief Minister Adam Giles on 20 November 2014, following the allocation of $25 million towards flood mitigation in the Katherine region. Terms of Reference and Committee membership were announced on 28 January 2015. The Committee has agreed to recommend a number of minor changes to the Terms of Reference.

Presentations were provided by the Department of Land Resource Management and the Northern Territory Planning Commission to better understand existing mapping, historical flood mitigation reports and land use planning.

The Committee agreed to focus on immediate, short, medium and long term flood mitigation actions.

A number of immediate outcomes from today’s meeting include:

- The Committee recommends that funding be made available to commission new topography and flood mapping for the purpose of modelling for the Katherine Region;

- The Department of Lands, Planning and Environment is to provide revised options for a new commercial centre and relocation of the Ambulance Centre, as part of the Katherine Land Use Plan at the next Committee Meeting in March 2015;

- Public consultation to commence immediately, with a two week submission period calling for ideas, anecdotal evidence and suggested topics for exploration by the Committee; and
An anticipated time frame which will see the development of a draft report within coming months, followed by a second opportunity for comment, including public meetings, before submitting a final report to Government for consideration.

Mr Westra van Holthe congratulated and thanked the Committee for what was a very productive inaugural meeting.

“We made great headway at today’s meeting”, Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The committee’s free-ranging conversation covered a work plan for the next few months including extensive public consultation prior to a final report being provided to Government.”

Residents, business owners and the broader community wishing to make submissions can email the Committee at Katherinefloodcommittee.dlpe@nt.gov.au. A dedicated webpage will be established in coming weeks.

The next meeting of the Katherine Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee will be held in Katherine on Friday, 13th March 2015.

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