Response teams thanked for work on Cyclone Lam

26 February 2015

Chief Minister Adam Giles has today visited the Cyclone Lam Emergency Operations Centre in Darwin to say thanks to Police, Emergency Services, Government workers and NGOs for their tireless efforts over the past week.

“I have been extremely impressed with the way our authorities have responded to this emergency and the recovery process that has now underway,” said Mr Giles.

“In all, more than a thousand government workers have been involved in the response and recovery in some way and I thank each and every one of them for their contribution.

“This has been a huge cross-agency effort involving personnel both on the ground and in the Emergency Operations Centre here in Darwin.

“It was an honour to meet some of those who have been working on the response at the Emergency operations Centre today and personally express my appreciation for their hard work.”

At the height of the cyclone the Emergency Operations Centre operated on a 24/7 basis, managing the immediate safety needs of those on the ground. It is now the central hub coordinating the recovery phase of the operation.

“Our thanks go to the Police, Emergency Services and Power and Water staff who’ve been on the front line of this response, but today I would also like to recognise the unsung heroes who have been operating behind the scenes these efforts,” said Mr Giles.

“The list is endless but includes staff from many Government departments who’ve been working long hours in difficult conditions to assist those in need and get communities back up and running.

“I want to recognise people like the Transport staff who helped organise the Warruwi airlifts, the Department of Children and Families staff who ran the evacuation centre at the Darwin showgrounds and are now conducting relief payment assessment, the Sport and Recreation workers who organised sporting activities for those who were evacuated, principals and teachers who organised school shelters during the storm, health staff who looked after the vulnerable and their medical needs, as well as the housing inspectors who’ve been assess the damage.
“I’d like to note the hard work of the East Arnhem Regional Council in helping to clean up these communities and store managers in the impacted communities for their efforts in organising supplies and keeping people fed.

“Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the enormous relief and recovery effort to get people back in their houses as quickly as possible.

“You have done an amazing job and you are all a credit to your agencies and organisations. The Northern Territory is proud of your efforts.

“This is going to be a long and expensive rebuild involving in excess of $100 million worth of work and we are going to need all of your skills and expertise over the months ahead.”

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