Chief Minister Adam Giles today joined the Acting Police Commissioner and the Director of Emergency Services in inspecting damage on Elcho Island as a result of Cyclone Lam.

“My heart goes out to all those residents of Elcho Island who have been impacted by this cyclone. I want to assure local residents that we are doing everything we can to restore essential services and to get people into appropriate accommodation while their homes are rebuilt,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

"I was so impressed to see people in such high spirits given all they have been through. It's an example of Territory resilience in the face of adversity.

“I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all the Police, Emergency Services personnel, public servants and NGOs who have been working day and night to help those in the cyclone zone.

“In particular, I’d like to express my appreciation to the Power and Water technicians who have been on the ground since Friday afternoon restoring electricity, sewerage and running water to these communities.”

Assessments have now been completed in all four major communities that were impacted - Galiwin’ku, Ramingining, Milingimbi and Gapuwiyak. The next priority for assessments is the surrounding homelands.

“Today we move from the response to recovery phase of this operation and I have asked Jim Rogers from my Department’s East Arnhem office to be the Regional Recovery Coordinator,” Mr Giles said.

“Short term recovery priorities are cleaning up fallen trees and restoring essential services. Longer-term we will concentrate on rebuilding the impacted communities.”

All impacted communities now have access to drinking water. However, residents of Galiwin’ku, Gapuwiyak, Bulman and Weemol are still being urged to boil their water as a precautionary measure.
An extra team of NT Emergency Services volunteers with chainsaws flew out to Galiwin'ku today to join teams already working on the ground.

"These volunteers from the Darwin and Palmerston NTES branches are doing an amazing job helping clear debris from fallen trees. I know their efforts are appreciated by the local community," Parliamentary Secretary Nathan Barrett said.

Environmental health officers are being deployed to assist with sanitation issues and staff from the Department of Children and Families will also be visiting impacted communities over the next week to help eligible residents with paperwork for disaster relief payments.

At this stage, the State of Emergency will be extended to Tuesday to allow recovery efforts to continue smoothly, ensure the safe restoration of essential services, and maintain the health and safety of residents.

***Please see pics and graph attached detailing essential services restoration in the impacted communities***

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Galiwin'ku - Elcho Island
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Status of Services.pdf