Peter Chandler  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

**State of Emergency declared for cyclone affected Top End communities**

20 February 2015

The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Peter Chandler, has declared a State of Emergency for parts of the Top End hardest hit by Severe Tropical Cyclone Lam.

The declared area includes the communities of Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak and Mapuru Outstation.

“I’ve taken this step to re-establish the normal pattern of life for residents and communities affected by Cyclone Lam,” Mr Chandler said.

“The declaration of a State of Emergency provides authorised officers involved in the response and recovery operations with a range of powers necessary to protect life and property.

“This special temporary measure has been taken to ensure the safety and security of residents.

“It assists with restoring facilities and services necessary for the normal functioning of communities.

“The safety of the community is paramount which is why this decision has been made.”

**Media Contact:** Lauren Crawley 0417 145 050