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CYCLONE LAM COMMUNITIES NEED SIGNIFICANT TERRITORY AND FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

Leader of the Opposition Delia Lawrie and Shadow Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Lynne Walker visited Galiwin’ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi this week to see the impact of Cyclone Lam and recovery efforts underway.

Ms Lawrie said that the impact of Cyclone Lam was significant and praised the efforts of local residents who had endured a very harrowing night and then quickly went into clean-up mode.

“It is a miracle that no-one was seriously injured during the cyclone and the overwhelming feeling of relief among these communities was tangible,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Everyone had praise for PowerWater who were often the first on the ground to work diligently to restore essential services.

“Co-ordination centres were quickly established in each community and I have nothing but praise for local service providers – councils, schools, health and RJCP – worked with traditional owners to tackle the enormous task of clearing trees and assessing damage. The remote arborists have been magnificent.

“I acknowledge hard working public servants who are busy behind the scenes assisting with systems and logistics to support those at the front line of cyclone affected communities.”

Ms Walker said that her community of Galiwin’ku were relieved they had two cyclone shelters that provided sanctuary.

“I thank the Shepherds College principal and staff and Marthakal Homelands Resource Centre for a great effort to keep residents safe and cared for during the cyclone.

“The entire community has worked together to take on the enormous task of clearing roads and access to homes and community buildings and temporary shelter at the oval is welcome. The big question is what comes next.

“We have a lot of homes that need to be repaired or replaced and people are asking what the construction program is. This is work that needs to be planned and I look forward to receiving advice from government.”
Ms Lawrie said that Galiwin’ku had enormous challenges ahead for the replacement of destroyed housing just as Ramingining and Milingimbi has the task of replacing damaged school buildings.

“Our communities are resilient but the construction task is significant and it will take resources from Territory and our Federal Government working together,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Labor stands committed to working with our communities to seek a reconstruction program that will replace destroyed buildings and homes.”

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