NT Government rolls out $50 million to reduce risk of flooding in Darwin and Katherine

31 October 2015

The Northern Territory Government is spending $50 million on a range of projects to reduce the risk and impact of flood events in Darwin and Katherine.

Lands and Planning Minister David Tollner said the Darwin and Katherine Flood Mitigation Advisory Committees, which were formed in 2014, have identified the projects after extensive consultation.

“This is the first time any Territory Government has made such a financial commitment to reduce the risk of flooding. The Government said it would make the money available for the purpose when it sold the TIO. It has delivered on that commitment,” Mr Tollner said.

“The committees were formed to advise on how best this money be spent and were tasked with developing a policy framework for managing the flood risk in Katherine and Darwin in consultation with the community.

“The Government will reduce the risk of floods by implementing the measures in the reports. This will improve community safety and limit the damage, disruption and costs associated with major flood events,” he said.

The Darwin report took account of information and community feedback provided during the Rapid Creek Action Plan consultation and will implement a works plan for the Rapid Creek Catchment to an estimated total value of $11.8 million that includes:

- the construction of a detention basin at the corner of Henry Wrigley Drive and McMillan Road to hold flood waters in a large flood event
- Flood proofing assessments and works in affected homes to reduce the impact of flooding and sewerage contamination in homes
- Power and Water Corporation to fund and install back-flow prevention devices to all properties at risk of sewerage inundation in the Rapid Creek catchment.

An additional $13.2 million will be allocated to stormwater management and works in the Ludmilla/Narrows, Wadham Lagoon, Yarrawonga and Pinelands catchments.

The NT Government will also spend $25 million in the Katherine region for flood mitigation works, which includes
$7.6 million for the relocation of the Ambulance Centre.

"Flooding in Katherine is complex and the Katherine Flood Advisory Committee recognises that to investigate, design and deliver the flood mitigation measures will take time," Mr Tollner said.

"A works plan for Katherine has been developed that will include the testing, identification and implementation of potential structural mitigation measures, flood mitigation support grants, whole of town pre-flooding preparation and the protection of communication networks.

"A maintenance strategy for the Katherine River, including weed and sedimentation control and more detailed flood risk information for properties and businesses will also be implemented."

The Northern Territory Government has already begun implementation of the measures outlined in both reports.

In addition to the $50 million being invested in flood mitigation works for Darwin and Katherine, $7.5 million has been provided for Sadadeen Connector Road and Mt John’s Valley flood access in Alice Springs.

For more information about flood mitigation call 1800 560 308 or email flood.mitigation@nt.gov.au


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