Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

Indigenous Territorians navigate new opportunity

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The Northern Territory Government is delivering more economic and employment opportunities to Territorians, with the expansion of the Indigenous Marine Training Program (IMTP).

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Willem Westra van Holthe said the nationally recognised program will now be based in Nhulunbuy.

“The Country Liberals Government made a funding commitment of more than $1.5 million in Budget 2015/16 towards this life-changing program,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“By basing the IMTP in Nhulunbuy, we will have a centralised location for marine ranger and seafood industry training. A new Program Manager will also be appointed to co-ordinate and develop the program into the future.

“We are broadening the scope of the training with a new course, Certificate III Seafood Industry Training, which will increase the ability of rangers to look after sea country and pick up fee-for-service work.

“The program also provides skills and experience so Indigenous people can establish and operate their own small scale seafood businesses,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

More than 100 Indigenous people across the Northern Territory have already gained Certificate II and III Fisheries Compliance under the IMTP.

Minister Westra van Holthe said the new resources will significantly increase the number of students that can be trained.

“Up to four courses will be offered in the next 12 months in the areas of marine safety, seafood handling and commercial fishing practices,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“The IMTP will also build on the planned delivery of maritime training to students at Nhulunbuy High School, creating another career pathway for local teenagers.

“The Country Liberals Government is empowering Indigenous Territorians to give them more opportunities into the future.”

Media Contact:

Casie Scott, 0432 453 225

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