Daly River clean-up begins as water levels fall

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With water levels continuing to drop, cleaning crews have begun arriving in Daly River today.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the response to the Daly River flooding was today moving from the emergency phase to recovery mode.

“With the Daly River now below the minor flood level and water levels falling, the Northern Territory Government is getting the first group of evacuees back to Daly River today to start cleaning up their properties,” he said.

“Thirteen properties have been assessed and made safe so residents from those properties were transported via coach from Darwin today to begin the clean-up before returning to the evacuation centre tonight.

“The clean-up effort will increase in a staged way and continue over the weekend.

“In addition, a nurse will accompany residents on the coach in and out daily and be based at the Daly River clinic to ensure a first aid presence.”

Mr Giles said conditions were still dangerous and both water and road access to the Daly River was still restricted for everyone’s safety.

“While we are now moving from the emergency to recovery phase, it will still be some time before the community returns to normal,” he said.

“Assessment teams from the Department of Housing and Department of Infrastructure began assessments on Tuesday and their work will continue to assess the impact of the flooding on homes and infrastructure in the community.

“Water samples were taken from Wooliana School yesterday with results to be provided to the Department of Health while Power and Water Corporation are monitoring the water supply situation as well.”

Local Member for Daly Gary Higgins said it had been a trying time for residents.
“I experienced flooding at Daly River first hand when I used to live there so I know how awful it is,” he said.

“Importantly though we’ve had no loss of life and work has started on the assessment of the damage as well as the clean-up.”

The Chief Minister and Minister Higgins said the residents had been great to work with.

“I thank all evacuated residents for their patience and co-operation during this difficult time and assure them the Government is working as hard as we can to help them get back into their homes as soon as possible,” Mr Giles said.

“I would also like to thank all the staff and volunteers for their efforts assisting those affected by the Daly River flooding. Their hard work over the Christmas-New Year period is greatly appreciated.”

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