Media Release

Bess Price
Minister for Local Government and Community Services

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Investment to improve living conditions in Arlparra and Utopia region

17 February 2016

New housing, better roads and more water supplies will be rolled out in the Utopia region as a result of a $28.3 million Northern Territory Government funding injection aimed at improving living conditions in the remote communities.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the funding flowed from feedback he and Minister Price had received at community meetings over recent months to determine priority infrastructure projects.

“The funding we are announcing today will see new houses built, existing houses upgraded, roads improved, sewerage upgraded and additional water supplies secured,” he said.

“The investment will substantially improve the lives of Aboriginal people living in Arlparra as well as those living in the surrounding outstations of the Utopia region.

“The Country Liberals Government has outlined an Aboriginal Affairs Strategy that focusses on providing jobs and opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians and decentralising decision making. Key to that is investing in essential services to ensure remote communities have the right ‘enabling environments’.

“My Government strongly believes that the integral link between economic and cultural success is through local Aboriginal people gaining access to and participating in a local economy. This is why we are investing more than $1.3 billion in infrastructure in remote communities across the NT.”

Minister for Local Government and Community Services, Bess Nungarrayi Price said there would be a large focus on Aboriginal employment and training with local contractors given opportunities to secure work.

“Our Aboriginal Affairs Strategy is maximising the potential for capital works projects to create jobs for Aboriginal Territorians,” she said.

“The Department of Infrastructure’s Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum initiative has delivered 576 new jobs for Aboriginal people in just over 12 months, up from 40, and that’s only going to grow as we invest more in infrastructure in remote communities.”
Chief Minister Giles said the Northern Territory Government was listening to the message from communities that they want improved housing and employment opportunities.

“We are working with communities and supporting local businesses get off the ground. These businesses are starting to take the reins and successfully compete for contracts across remote Australia to build and refurbish houses,” he said.

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