AFL in Arnhem Land receives a boost

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AFL in North East Arnhem Land has received a boost with a $290,000 investment from the Country Liberals Government.

Chief Minister Adam Giles made the announcement at Yirrkala on Saturday.

“AFL is proving to be a strong vehicle for positive change in remote communities, supporting improved education, health and community strengthening outcomes,” Mr Giles said.

“As part of the Community Recovery Fund, $140,000 has been awarded to AFLNT to support a major regional men’s and, for the first time, a women's Football Carnival with teams now vying for the ‘Chief Minister’s Cup’.

“The positive impact of AFL is being felt in the Galiwin'ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi communities; this funding will cover the carnival costs for the teams travelling from these communities for the carnival.”

An additional $50,000 has been provided from the NT Government to host a special match as part of the Rirratjingu Football Program where players from the NTFL Buffaloes and Wanderers will join local Yirrkala teams Djarrak and Nguykal.

The women's football teams, the Buffettes and Wanderers Women’s, will also play.

Whilst in Yirrkala, Chief Minister Adam Giles announced that the Northern Territory Government has committed $100,000 towards completing the lighting upgrade at Yirrkala oval.

Country Liberals candidate for Nhulunbuy, Charles Yunipingu welcomed the Chief Minister’s announcement.

“Football programs in North East Arnhem Land are rapidly growing and are an important part of the community,” Mr Yunipingu said.

“Upgrading lighting on the oval will not only make the field safer for players, but there is also the potential for night games to be played there.”

The Community Recovery Fund grant continues to deliver for the Arnhem Land communities with the Chief Minister Adam Giles announcing an additional $1.5m of grants whilst in Yirrkala.

“To date, $4m of community based projects have been committed to the Galiwin'ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi communities and homelands who were devastated after Cyclones Lam and Nathan,” Mr Giles said.
“The purpose of the Fund is to deliver projects that will strengthen families and communities and assist in delivering a holistic rebuilding effort that strongly involves communities.”

Under the $5 million Community Recovery Fund (CRF) created as a result of Tropical Cyclones Lam and Nathan, which is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory Government under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, more than $1.5 million has been allocated from the CRF fund to other projects in the Arnhem Land region:

- **Yalu Marggithinyaraw Indigenous Corporation**: $143,915 for the Yalu Capacity Building Program to deliver family, community and traditional programs.

- **Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (Yirralka Rangers)**: $24,400 to remediate the Cato Recreation Area.

- **Why Warriors Org Ltd**: $246,577 to expand their successful ‘Hope for Health’ program.

- **ARDS Aboriginal Corporation, Ferment Collaborate**: $230,477 to develop a documentary on the effects of Tropical Cyclones Lam and Nathan, and develop resources to assist the preparedness of the region in future disaster events.

- **Marthakal Homelands and Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation**: $145,707 to repair and upgrade their cyclone shelter facility at Galiwin’ku and engage specialist business services to increase the organisation’s future resilience and assist with the implementation of community and recovery programs.

- **Banthula Bananas and Galawarra Cassava Fencing (Marthakal)**: $31,823 to fence the banana and cassava plantations at the Elcho Island homelands of Banthula and Galawarra.

- **Nyalka Milingimbi Women’s Aboriginal Corporation**: $20,000 to install two solar lights at the Milingimbi Community Stage.

- **Homelands Meeting Shelters**: $748,893 to provide meeting shelters at Milingimbi School, Ramingining Homelands, Marrngarr Homelands, Nalatjirra Billabong, Mapuru and Dhalinbuy Meeting Shelter (Laynhapuy).

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