The Territory Government will spend $1.5 million in Budget 2007/08 upgrading cyclone shelters in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area.

Infrastructure and Transport Minister, Delia Lawrie, made the announcement this morning as she inspected the Nightcliff cyclone shelter with the Member for Nightcliff, Jane Aagaard.

“We have six cyclone shelters in the Darwin region, with hundreds of residents relying on them as a safe option should a tropical cyclone affect the Top End,” said Ms Lawrie.

“Significant capital works worth $1.5 million are now planned for the next financial year on cyclone shelters at Nightcliff High, Casuarina Senior College and Taminmin High School. The work planned for Taminmin High School will enable it to be reopened as a shelter for the 2007 wet season.”

Ms Lawrie said the Government is responding to an engineering report that looked into the status of each shelter and recommended future potential repairs and maintenance requirements.

“In the Darwin region, we have already started $125,000 worth of improvements on shelters at Nightcliff High School, Dripstone High School, Palmerston High School, Casuarina Senior College and the Supreme Court,” said Ms Lawrie.

“The minor works include improved door hinging, roller shutters and the installation of debris screening of windows and should be wrapped up by the end of April.

“The new $1.5 million capital works are expected to start mid-year and will include new roof cladding and the installation of debris screening of windows at all three shelters.”

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