MCADAM WELCOMES FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN TOWN CAMPS

Local Government Minister Elliot McAdam has today reinforced the importance of the Territory, Federal and local Governments working together collaboratively to address social conditions relating to town camps in Alice Springs.

Mr McAdam said while he welcomed the Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough’s plan to overhaul camps, Mr McAdam added that it was imperative that the findings of the Town Camps Taskforce first report are taken into consideration.

“I am pleased that the Federal Government has raised this as a serious issue – I certainly talked about the issue of the Town Camps when I met with Mr Brough in Canberra last week,” Mr McAdam said.

“It is vital that the three tiers of Government all work together to create healthy communities on these camps.”

Mr McAdam said the Alice Springs Taskforce, which was established earlier this year to examine and assess social conditions relating to town camps in Alice Springs, was due to report back to him shortly.

“The Taskforce had consulted widely with a wide range of stakeholders and has sought public submissions from the wider community.

“Consultations by the Taskforce have shown that there are widely shared views and anecdotes about town camps and visitors.

“There is a general consensus across the whole community regarding pressures from increased visitors to Alice Springs, and problems associated with anti social behaviour.”

Mr McAdam said the Chair of the Taskforce, Olga Havnan, recently hosted a public information session to give the wider Alice Springs community an opportunity to hear about the Taskforce and its charter.

“So far consultations and submissions received reveal the principal issue of concern to all stakeholders is that of alcohol abuse,” Mr McAdam said.

“The work currently being undertaken by the Taskforce – which comprises representatives from Government and local community organisations – have begun to identify some short and longer term proposals for addressing several issues impacting on the town as a whole.

“A report will be provided by the Taskforce on this work by the end of April.”

Contact Minister McAdam's Office: 08 8901 4092