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Local Government Boundaries Confirmed

The Local Government boundaries for the nine new Shire Councils and four Municipal Councils have been announced and will come into effect on 1 July 2008.

Minister for Local Government Elliot McAdam said it follows six months of consultation with the Local Government Advisory Board, Transitional Committees and local communities.

“These boundaries will deliver strong councils with low rates and better services,” Mr McAdam said.

“There have been several changes to the proposed boundaries to accommodate specific requests from stakeholders and community members.

“The announcement of the boundaries provides certainty for residents and allows all the business plans for the shires to be finalised.

“Recruitment for new Chief Executive Officers and Corporate Services Directors will begin this weekend and they are expected to be in place early in 2008.”

One of the main boundary movements, at the request of the Katherine Town Council, is the expansion of the shire 40 kilometres north and south of the town to allow for future growth.

There has been minor realignment of the East and West Arnhem boundaries and Central Desert and Barkly Shires to align outstations with their service centres.

Mataranka, Larrimah, Jilkminggan and Daly Waters have also moved into the East Katherine Shire to align with health and other service delivery arrangements.

“After consideration of proposals to include the Cox Peninsula as part of the Darwin City Council the Government has decided not to support the proposal,” Mr McAdam said.

“The Cox Peninsular, including Wagait and Belyuen, is at a similar stage of development as the Top End Shire – and wouldn’t be a suitable fit to the highly regulated Darwin City environment.

“In line with decisions already taken for rates in the Top End Shire, Cox Peninsula and Belyuen household rates will be set at $300 for 2008/2009 and will be capped to inflation for 3 years.”


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