ECONOMIC STUDY TO HELP FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT IN MANINGRIDA

The first comprehensive economic study of a Northern Territory remote indigenous community was released today.

Business and Employment Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said the Maningrida Study compares the Arnhem Land community to a similar-sized mainstream community in New South Wales.

“The aim of this project is to identify the enterprise gap in Maningrida so a package of potential measures targeting the specific needs of the community can be developed that will grow local employment and facilitate business development.”

Mr Vatskalis said the findings of the Maningrida Study show that a one-size-fits-all approach to indigenous regional development just won’t work.

“We need to consider each community on the basis of its aspirations, assets, opportunities and challenges and understand where the gaps and barriers to development exist in order to develop a targeted approach.

“I’m not going to pull any punches – this study reveals a business gap in Maningrida of 96 per cent with the number of private businesses around 4 per cent of the number in Gundagai, New South Wales.

“The enterprise gap is large but now it has been clearly identified we can move forward to developing programs and partnerships that will deliver more jobs, business development and greater economic opportunities for Maningrida.

“We are already in partnership with Telstra, Rio Tinto and the Northern Land Council in the $34 million Arnhem Land broadband project, which will deliver better services and open up business opportunities in the region.

“We will continue to work with the Australian Government and the private sector to promote and encourage greater involvement in the Maningrida economy.”