Rob Knight
MINISTER FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

20 April 2009

Improving Essential Services in Remote Katherine And Arnhem Communities

The Territory Government will invest $67 million in Budget 2009 to improve power, water and sewerage services in remote Indigenous communities, including $18.9 million for infrastructure.

Minister for Essential Services Rob Knight said the $18.9 million for the Indigenous Essential Services Program included a boost of $3.95 million and would see more than $2 million invested in the Katherine and Arnhem regions.

“The Territory Government is committed to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, including improving essential services in the bush,” Mr Knight said.

“The Government knows the demand for power and water will continue to grow as the population in remote areas increases and more homes, schools and health centres are built and upgraded.

“This funding will deliver new infrastructure for electricity, water and sewerage services, as well as allowing necessary repairs and maintenance to take place.”

The Indigenous Essential Services program for the Katherine and Arnhem regions in Budget 09 will include:

- $650 000 to replace a ground level storage tank in Ramingining;
- $500 000 for the equipping of new production bores at Rittarangu;
- $450 000 for upgrade work at Beswick and;
- $450 000 for upgrade work at Barunga
More than $9.3 million will also be invested Territory wide in minor works programs.

This is in addition to $2.5 million provided in 2008-09 for projects such as new chlorine disinfection and UV disinfection for the water supply in 17 communities.

“This work is about growing the Territory’s services, investing in our regions and delivering real results for Territorians,” said Mr Knight.

“Budget 2009 is focused on building the Territory and protecting Territory jobs.”

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