31 March 2010

Emergency situation declared in East Arnhem

The Chief Minister and Police Commissioner have declared an emergency situation for parts of East Arnhem land and the Roper and Gulf Shire affected by ex-tropical cyclone Paul.

Mr Henderson said the region has been hit by a large amount of rain with local flooding occurring through communities from Millingimbi to Numbulwar including Nhulunbuy and Groote Eylandt.

“Strong winds and continued rain have caused damage in the region with power blackouts also reported in many homes,” Mr Henderson said.

Police Commissioner John McRoberts said emergency services were on hand to provide assistance to those affected.

“We already have people on the ground ready to help those affected and will continue to monitor the situation closely, with additional resources ready to be deployed as required,” Mr McRoberts said.

Mr Henderson said personal hardship assistance would be available through the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families to those affected.

“Personal hardship assistance will be made available through the NT’s Department of Health and Families and will be managed through Family and Children’s officers and Emergency Services will arrange food drops and evacuations where necessary,” Mr Henderson said.

Repairs will have to be made to the NT roadwork and to damage from flooding, infrastructure and removal of debris.
The Bureau of Meteorology has predicted more flooding in the next 48 hours. The Northern Territory Emergency Service advises that people should secure loose outside objects and seek shelter when the conditions deteriorate. Driving conditions may be hazardous - avoid flooded roads and watercourses.

Residents of affected communities are advised to listen to local ABC radio for updates, visit www.bom.gov.au or contact 1300 659 211 for weather updates.

Contact: Lidija Ivanovski  0457 933 856