Minister for Information and Communication Technology Policy Karl Hampton today announced that the NT Government would ensure residents of Papunya would continue to have internet access.

“I am glad that this longstanding issue in our remote communities that has been brought to the attention of the public.

“The situation in Papunya is a problem created by the Coalition Government’s previous and continuing policies on remote communication.

“This is exactly the sort of problem the National Broadband Network has been designed to fix.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to providing Internet access for our remote communities, and Papunya is one of our identified Growth Towns.

“The NT and Federal Labor Governments have already taken action to hook up Papunya to broadband.

“These public internet access facilities and training services to Papunya will be in place in the first half of 2011 as part of a National Partnership Agreement.

“In the interim, the NT Government will fund a new satellite link to keep CAYLUS wired-in so they can access services, talk to friends and family, pay their bills and do their banking online.

“This is a temporary fix until Papunya becomes part of the National Broadband Network, which is already being rolled out across Australia, including the Territory.

“Mr Abbot has promised to rip out the NBN and entrench this problem that our bush communities like Papunya are currently living with.

“Last week in Parliament the CLP were strident in their support for Mr Abbot’s plan, which will keep Papunya and all our remote communities’ in the digital Dark Ages – this is not good enough.

“The CLP should explain to Territorians why they oppose services for people in the bush.”

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