MINISTER FOR LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ADDITIONAL BUSHFIRE STRIKE TEAM SENT TO ASSIST IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

January 8th, 2012

Minister for Land Resource Management, Willem Westra van Holthe, has commended the efforts of Bushfires NT, NT Police, the Alice Springs Regional Bushfire Committee, Parks and Wildlife units and volunteers helping battle blazes in Central Australia.

At 4 a.m. this morning a fire was reported at Watarrka National Park near Kings Canyon Resort, 450 km South/West of Alice Springs.

In addition to this, Bushfires NT has been monitoring as many as 6 fires in the Central Australia region.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to supporting our fellow Territorians battling bushfires in Central Australia,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“In anticipation of a big fire season in Central Australia, my department has moved fire fighting resources from the Top End to Central Australia with personnel on standby should they be required.

“A strike team of 6 crew and 3 vehicles will be leaving Darwin by road tomorrow morning to assist in Central Australia. In addition, 3 incident controller crew members will fly to Alice Springs tomorrow morning.

“Bushfires NT has made proactive and strategic plans to handle this year’s bushfire season.

“In recognition of more fire fighting resources needed in Central Australia the Territory Government increased funding to Bushfires NT in the Mini-Budget.

“My thoughts are with those who live in the affected area, those battling the blazes and those who have loved ones battling the blazes.”

It is understood that Parks and Wildlife Commission staff established a firebreak with Kings Canyon Resort staff earlier in the year which should prevent the bushfire from directly impacting on the resort.

Bushfires NT is monitoring the situation at Kings Canyon Resort and the other fires currently burning in Central Australia.

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