ALISON ANDERSON
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDIGENOUS ADVANCEMENT

BOOST FOR HOMELANDS IN MINI-BUDGET

December 4th, 2012

Eligible houses in Territory homelands and outstations will benefit from $5200 in works under funding announced in today’s Mini Budget.

Regional Development and Indigenous Advancement Minister, Alison Anderson, said the money honours a Country Liberals election commitment to support housing in homelands and outstations as long as the dwelling is a principal place of residence and children attend school.

“The Country Liberals believe there are significant health and cultural advantages around proceeding with a strong homelands policy,” Mrs Anderson said.

“It’s important that they be allowed to continue under certain criteria, most importantly of which is sending children to school.”

The Government’s commitment is $2 million in 2012-13 and 2013-14, $4 million in 2014-15 and $6 million in 2015-16. This funding is additional to existing budget allocations for outstation services.

Departmental savings of $1.1 million in 2012-13 and $1.124 million ongoing will be sourced from general efficiencies in the agency including travel, fleet and consulting.

An additional $100,000 in savings will come by ceasing the 2012-13 Futures Forums and $100,000 ongoing from 2012-13 from disbanding the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council.

The Co-ordinator General’s role overseeing remote service delivery will be transferred to the Chief Executive of my Department saving $252,000 a year from next financial year.

Other projects to benefit communities include $4.5 million in 2012-13 to construct the Milingimbi Health Centre; $6.4 million in Commonwealth funding for a remote health clinic at Galiwinku, $650,000 in 2012-13 for fire upgrades to Gove District Hospital, $900,000 in Commonwealth funding for police facilities and overnight accommodation in Milikapiti, $2 million for the Wurrumiyanga barge landing, $5 million for the Red Centre Way and $2.5 million to upgrade and seal Utopia airstrip.

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