NHULUNBUY EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
A PRIORITY

Member for Nhulunbuy Lynne Walker has called on the NT Government to set up an Emergency Response Centre in Nhulunbuy as a priority in the wake of Cyclone Lam.

Ms Walker said a temporary ERC in Nhulunbuy could provide the critical assistance and disaster recovery services to people in the East Arnhem region affected by Cyclone Lam.

"We still await news from some communities about the extent of damage from the cyclone which even though downgraded is still active," Ms Walker said.

"Establishing an Emergency Response Centre in Nhulunbuy, the major centre in closest proximity to the affected regions, will enable a timely and coordinated response to remote communities as they come to grips with the cyclone damage.

"Over the last couple of days I have been able to maintain phone contact with a number of remote communities including the coastal homelands of Mapuru and Nyinyikay which also bore the brunt of the cyclone.

"Residents there report they are safe and well.

"Little detail is coming from Galiwin’ku at this stage though I understand there are thankfully no reports of injuries.

"However concerns remain about the extent of the damage with at least six homes destroyed; power lines down and extensive debris across the community.

"Thanks and praise goes to police and emergency services personnel, staff from the Bureau of Meteorology and residents right across Arnhemland for their timely and calm preparations which no doubt minimised potential harm and made sure residents were as safe as possible.

"Grave concerns remain, however, for Galiwn’ku residents in particular, and it is vitally important that when safe to do so, a full assessment of community
needs is fully resourced so that post recovery plans are put in to place as soon as possible.

“Our people are strong, brave and resilient but will need a whole-of-government support and effort to fully recover.”

Ms Walker said she was pleased to hear that the new housing built to code under Labor had stood up well in such destructive winds.

“Good shelter is essential in our coastal communities and it reinforces the need for a continued housing program,” Ms Walker said.

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