Government acts on remaining ghosting problems in Northern suburbs

After years of tolerating poor television reception, residents in Darwin’s northern suburbs could soon be seeing things much clearer, with tenders seeking a solution to the problem closing today.

Acting Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Jane Aagaard said the Government was seeking an investigation and report into the possible solution to the remaining residents suffering poor television reception.

"Residents in the northern suburbs have been inconvenienced by television ghosting for too many years, and this Government is determined to fix the problem," Mrs Aagaard said.

"Some improvements have been made over the years, but a core of people still suffer from poor reception. This consultancy is about fixing the remaining problem areas."

Mrs Aagaard said poor television reception in the northern suburbs dates back to 1989 when NT House was constructed, with the architecture and materials of the building interfering with Channel 6 (ABC) and Channel 8 transmissions from Gardens Hill.

A low power UHF translator was installed at NT House in 1991 followed by investigations into the problem in 1997 and 1998.

The installation of a further UHF translator at Deloraine Road in 2001 resulted in most northern suburb residents finally enjoying improved television reception.

"But 30% of residents – mostly in Tiwi and Brinkin – are still suffering ghosting problems, and this must be addressed," Mrs Aagaard said.

"Our stormy climatic conditions in Darwin - especially at this time of the year – are definitely a factor, but they are certainly not the only ones.

"With tenders closing today, we’re expecting some answers in the next couple of months, with $100,000 set aside to commence work this financial year which will hopefully help the remaining 30% of residents see things much clearer than they have for the past 13 years."