



Malarndirri McCarthy
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

20 August 2010

Ngukurr to host first Future Forum

The Territory Growth Town of Ngukurr, 330 kilometres south of Katherine on the banks of the Roper River, will today host the first Future Forum focussing on employment and economic development opportunities for the region.

Regional Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy said that the Future Forums are an important plank in the Government's visionary *Working Future* – Territory Growth Town plan, to invest in and develop 20 large communities into service towns and major regional centres.

"The Future Forum is an important part of this and a great opportunity for the people of Ngukurr and the Government to work in partnership to grow their town," said Ms McCarthy.

"The Future Forum will provide an opportunity to access information on a range of government, non-government and private sector programs and services including how to start and run a business, home ownership, job creation, and cultural and sporting events.

"As part of *Working Future* each Growth Town will have a Local Implementation Plan (LIP) built around the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Building Blocks; early childhood, economic participation, governance and leadership, health, healthy homes, safe communities and schooling.

"These plans become the blueprint for the development of each Growth Town and contain a vision statement which describes the overall aspiration of each community for their development.

"By 2030 the 20 Growth Towns will be properly planned and designed; have services and infrastructure like any other country town; benefit from targeted investment in infrastructure, and provide quality services to surrounding small communities."

The Ngukurr Future Forum is conducted in conjunction with the Shire and driven and championed by the community through the Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Corporation.

The forum will be followed by the two-day Yugul Mangi Festival 2010 with the theme: 'Building Our Future Together'

The 20 Territory Growth Towns are: Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Wadeye, Milingimbi, Yuendumu, Hermannsburg, Borroloola, Ngukurr, Yirrkala, Papunya, Galiwin'ku, Numbulwar, Lajamanu, Elliott, Nguiu, Ali Curung, Angurugu/Umbakumba and Daguragu/Kalkarindji.

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