Working Future: $20 Million For Umbakumba Road Upgrade

The Territory Government will continue to upgrade Territory roads today announcing 46 kilometres of the road from Angurugu to Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt will be sealed.

Transport Minister, Gerry McCarthy, and Indigenous Development, Minister Malarndirri McCarthy, said the Henderson Government will contribute $5.5 million, together with $9.5 million committed by the Australian Government and $5 million from the Anindilyakwa Land Council towards sealing the Umbakumba Road on Groote Eylandt.

“This is a major investment by the Henderson Government in expanding transport services to the bush that will benefit more than 3000 Territorians,” Malarndirri McCarthy said.

“Budget 2010 invests in Working Future funding better services and supporting economic development of Indigenous Territorians.

“Getting to and from regional and remote areas has been identified as a key issue for Territorians living in remote communities.

“Transport is also important for remote Territorians to have improved access to health, education and economic opportunities.

“The project is part of a Regional Partnership Agreement between Australian and NT Government for Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island, working with the Anindilyakwa Land Council, East Arnhem Shire Council and the Groote Eylandt Mining Company.

Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy said the work on Umbakumba Road would begin in 2011.

“This project will create and support jobs and make a significant contribution to Territorians living on Groote Eylandt,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The Territory Government will continue to work with the Australian Government to help improve transport in our regional and remote communities to help close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.”

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563 (Gerry McCarthy)
Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507 (Malarndirri McCarthy)