Peter Chandler  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services  

Gary Higgins, Member for Daly  

New flood boat for Daly River Volunteer Unit  

19 March 2015  

Flood rescue in the Daly River region has been made easier with the addition of a $90,000 specialised vessel to the area.  

The 5.3 metre long flood boat is the second type in the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) assets and will increase local flood rescue capacity. It was handed over to the Daly River NTES Volunteer Unit by Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister Peter Chandler today.  

Minister Chandler said the vessel represents contemporary state emergency service flood rescue boat design and construction and was tried and tested during the 2011 Queensland floods.  

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to making life safer for Territorians and this additional asset for the Daly River NTES Volunteer Unit will go a long way to helping their efforts during flood operations,” he said.  

“It is expected to be the workhorse of the NTES flood rescue boat fleet.”  

Member for Daly Gary Higgins said he was delighted with the new addition.  

“The work of the Daly River NTES Volunteer Unit cannot be underestimated,” Mr Higgins said. “This Unit has been called on to help out during flood operations on an almost annual basis and they are a hard working, valuable unit for the people of Daly.”  

NTES director Andrew Warton said regardless of how prepared a community is, flood situations still present real risks to some during the Wet Season.  

“The provision of this custom made flood boat to the Daly River NTES Volunteer Unit will provide them with an enhanced capability to keep people safe in times of flood emergency,” Mr Warton said.  

“The true value of this flood boat will be realised the first time it is sent into action. This is a significant day for NTES and the Daly River community and I am confident that this boat, and the people who crew it, will continue to service the public and in the process, keep people safe.”
NTES Daly River Volunteer Unit Officer Lionel Egan was on hand to receive the boat from Minister Chandler.

“This will greatly enhance search and rescue response on the Daly River and surrounding areas,” Mr Egan said.

“The presence of this new well-equipped flood rescue boat will also supplement existing NT police assets and allow us to perform tow recovery operations and assist during the various fishing competitions held in the Daly River area.

“This will provide an extra way of conducting safety patrols up and down the river. We are greatly appreciative of the new asset and look forward to getting it out on the water.”

**Relevant vessel and NTES facts**

- Purpose built aluminium construction with a hardened hull to withstand strikes with underwater objects.
- 90HP motor to power through fast flowing water.
- Operates in as little as 600mm of water and can be man-handled through 300 mm of water.
- Manned by a crew of two and can carry up to six passengers or 1300kg of supplies.
- Able to be loaded through a waterline access door on each side of the vessel.
- Flood boats are located in Darwin, Katherine, Lajamanu, Kalkarindji, Maranboy and Daly river.
- 90 percent of the flood boat fleet is located in the Northern Region.

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