



Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Rebuilding for the future of Elcho Island

9 May 2015

The first shipment of transportable homes has arrived in Galiwin'ku, providing longer term temporary accommodation for the residents displaced by Tropical Cyclones Lam and Nathan.

"I know this has been a difficult time for resident in the cyclone zone and I want to thank everyone for their patience. I'm pleased we are now able to offer a better housing solution which their homes are rebuilt," Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

Darwin company, Northern Transportables, has been awarded the contract for the supply and installation of 60 transportable homes which have been designed and purpose-built to provide self-contained accommodation for approximately 300 residents of Galiwin'ku.

"The transportable homes have been fitted out in Darwin and the first ten have landed on Elcho Island," Mr Giles said.

"They will start being installed across five agreed locations in clusters of six homes for the residents to progressively move into."

The first cluster is expected to be ready by the end of May and the final cluster is expected to be installed and ready for residents to move in by the end of June.

Completion of the installation of the transportable homes will see the tents at Camp Elcho dismantled and returned to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

"Northern Transportables have committed to 25 per cent of their onsite installation workers being Indigenous and they will work with local groups to provide maintenance services over the duration of the lease period," Mr Giles said.

The Government is talking regularly with the Dilak (Leadership Group) in Galiwin'ku to ensure decisions on recovery and rebuilding are made with the community.

"The community has told us that they want to be actively involved in the rebuilding process, in both the planning and the delivery of the rebuild effort, which would include local jobs and strong training and development opportunities," Mr Giles said.

“I want to thank the Dilak for their assistance with Camp Elcho and the placement and design of the transportable homes.

“Senior recovery officials and I recently met with the Dilak at Galiwin’ku to discuss options for the wider community rebuilding program.

“The Dilak resolved that the housing rebuilding program should be undertaken at two speeds.

“Firstly, there will be a faster rebuild of half of the damaged houses to ensure priority is given to getting the most affected families back into a home.

“Secondly, for the remaining homes, there will be a longer term program over a period of around three to four years to ensure the opportunities for real jobs, training and community development are maximised.”

Bob Beadman has been appointed as Director of Rebuilding and Community Development to lead the rebuilding and community development work in Cyclone affected communities.

Mr Beadman, a former Northern Territory Coordinator General for Remote Services, will focus on how each community can be involved in the recovery work for long term social and economic benefits.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to assisting the affected communities, local businesses and residents to take advantage of the opportunities for economic development, training and long-term employment that have risen from this disaster,” Mr Beadman said.

“We are keen to ensure we don’t just rebuild the status quo in the same way that has been done in the past, but take advantage of this opportunity to deliver better infrastructure with the communities.”

The Government has committed more than \$90 million in the 2015-16 Budget to ensure the rebuilding process can progress.

****Please see images attached****

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[Pic - Transportables on the barge](#)

[Indicative site plan](#)