Gary Higgins, Member for Daly

**Waste not, want not**

27 March 2016

The remote community of Wadeye is sorting its rubbish.

And helping the community out is a Northern Territory Government grant of $11,500 towards a recycling project through the women’s ranger team of the Thamarrurr Development Corporation.

“The TDC rangers identified a need to tackle the community’s rubbish problem and started a recycling project as part of a broader program to raise community awareness and reduce waste at Wadeye and the surrounding land and sea country,” Environment Minister and Member for Daly Gary Higgins said.

“The Government is only too happy to help out this worthy project through our Wadeye Community Activity Grant Program.

“We recognise the important role that many organisations like TDC have in making a real difference in the lives and environment of Indigenous people.”

Minister Higgins said the Thamarrurr Rangers are hard-working and dedicated to their region.

“They do a terrific job and when you think of their ‘patch’ being 18,000 square kilometres of land, you’ve got to admire their determination,” he said.

“This project is one of many they manage and they get great results from their work. I’m delighted they have won this grant to help further develop their recycling project.”

TDC figures from 2015 state that 70 percent of rubbish collected by the Thamarrurr Rangers and West Daly Shire were items covered by the container deposit scheme (CDS).

After researching the issue the Rangers decided to start with the CDS. Community organisations, the local Community Development Project, West Daly Shire Council, the Murin Freight Company and Bevcon Recycling in Darwin have all become part of the project which sees recyclable rubbish from the area shipped to Darwin and refund proceeds placed in an account to further the project.

In less than three months since the program started, more than 25,000 items of rubbish have been brought to the Ranger Base by about 80 community members.

The NTG grant will support plans to directly engage with local households, families and kids, raise awareness and support a dedicated ranger for additional workloads and costs for the project.
Attached:

A TDC Ranger with some of the collected recycling

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TDC Ranger