



Media Release

Darwin City Council

Communications & Marketing Ph. (08) 8930 0504 Fax (08) 8930 0669

TOPROC Planning for Future

Friday, 20 March 2009

Yesterday (Top End Regional Organisation of Councils) met to discuss stronger ties with the NT Government and working together to better attract funding for infrastructure. TOPROC is made up of the Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield and Wagait Councils.

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer stressed the importance of Top End Regional Councils working together. "Strategic issues like climate change, Darwin Harbour and future public transport infrastructure are common threads, we can get better outcomes planning and working together" he said.

Also attending the meeting was NT Local Government Minister, Rob Knight. Mr Knight showed a keen interest in working more closely with Top End Councils in the future. "It is Important to work closely with Local Councils to plan for future development" he said.

Palmerston Mayor Robert Macleod was encouraged by Mr Knights attendance at the meeting. "It is important that local councils get a heads up on developments in the top end so they can undertake appropriate planning" he said.

Wagait Council President, Peter Clee sees NT Operational Grants as an important matter for discussion. "If councils are not properly resourced they can't get on with the job of servicing the community" he said.

Litchfield Council Acting CEO Derrick Tranter commented the benefits of working together. "Regional waste management along with transport infrastructure are areas of keen interest for Litchfield Council and this forum is a great way to work together in closing the gaps" he said.

Issues discussed at today's meeting were Joint TOPROC and NTG Projects/Funding, Regional Development Project Funding, Grants Commission Funding, regional waste management, climate change implications for Darwin Harbour and regional transport such as bridges/MRT (Mass Rapid Transport).

The future direction of TOPROC is to build a solid relationship to actively engage meaningful strategic planning for the top end region involving both Councils and the Northern Territory Government.

Contact: Gary Haslett, 8930 0504 or 0410 612 142