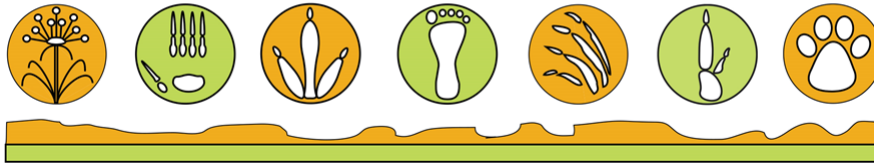


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

8 September 2014

Council committed to carting water

The chief executive of the Barkly Regional Council Edwina Marks has said the council is committed to carting water to ensure a clinic in the Utopia homelands has a regular water supply.

Dr Marks said the council has been carting water to Urapuntja Health Service Aboriginal Corporation clinic on the Utopia Homelands since the clinic bore collapsed during pump replacement in late June.

There is another bore on site. However, the water is discoloured and so council has been carting water for the clinic to ensure safe potable supply.

Dr Marks said the council provides 27,000 litres of water to a ground tank and 22,000 litres to a header tank which is back-up storage for the clinic. "Every second day council is carting water as requested," said Dr Marks.

"However, council is committed to carting water every day if necessary to ensure water supplies are kept up."

There was one recent instance when the Urapuntja clinic ran out of water on Sunday, August 24. "The council was notified at 4.05pm on Sunday and the tank was filled, with water supplied to the clinic just after 5pm," said Dr Marks.

On Sunday, September 5, the clinic ran out of water again and was able to use the supply from the header tank while council scheduled its usual Monday carting.

Dr Marks said while the council was addressing the immediate issue of ensuring the clinic and community had regular water supply, the Northern Territory Government was responsible for providing the capital renewal funding process to provide a solution as this is outside of council's current service provider agreement.

Both the Northern Territory Government and the health clinic in Urapuntja have begun discussions about potential solutions for the collapsed clinic bore, with a hydrologist set to visit the clinic this week to discuss drilling a new bore.

Dr Marks said the council will also meet with the clinic in Urapuntja this week to discuss other contingencies and service provisions.

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