

# BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Community win for Alpururulam police station**

Barkly Regional Council Mayor Steve Edgington has welcomed plans by the Northern Territory Government (NTG) to build a new police station out at Alpururulam.

Under the latest annual review of the NTG's 10-year infrastructure plan 2018-2027, a proposed \$10m for new police stations in Alpururulam and Elliott (2019-2020) has been highlighted for the Barkly region.

"This is great news," the Mayor said. "I thank the residents, Local Authority members and our Alpururulam Ward councillor for lobbying so hard and advocating for the people of their community. I also thank the Territory Government for listening to us."

Mayor Edgington said Council, the Alpururulam Local Authority and residents had all played a part in actively lobbying for a solution that benefited the community following the NTG's decision to withdraw full-time officers earlier this year.

"The lack of a police presence in Alpururulam since February continues to have a detrimental effect on the community," he said.

"Within three weeks of the withdrawal of a permanent police presence there was an increase in anti-social behaviour and alcohol related incidents in the community.

Mr Edgington said members of Alpururulam Local Authority and residents had begged the NTG to reinstate full-time officers. He also wrote to the government outlining the concerns of the community and the importance of police being based in the community fulltime.

"We argued that if a permanent police presence can't be maintained, if the facilities aren't suitable to have a permanent police presence, then proper planning needs to be underway to build a new purpose-built police station in Alpururulam.

"This latest 10-year-infrastructure plan by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) shows the NT Government has taken the key drivers of increasing service requirements and improving community safety seriously and I applaud the government for reconsidering," he said.

"We look forward to hearing more from the NTG in the near future."

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