

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Beswick/ Wugularr floods**

26 March 2015

The localised flooding at Beswick /Wugularr is increasing as the Waterhouse River continues to climb. There have been ongoing heavy rain showers in the immediate area and it is expected that the town will be cut off for between 48 and 72 hours with the Central Arnhem Highway is closed to all traffic west of Beswick.

Flooding is affecting the lower part of town along the Billabong and Balanda Street. All residents from the effected have been evacuated to the Wugularr School or to be with friends and family in the new subdivision.

The Aged Care facility's seven residents have been evacuated to the School as of 0830 hours this morning and are reported to be comfortable and well supported by Council Aged care staff. The residents at the School have been joined by staff from Roper Gulf Regional Council, Sunrise Community Health, Police and Emergency Service personnel and school staff.

Power and water is still available in the new subdivision and there is adequate food supply.

Mr Michael Berto CEO of Roper Gulf Regional Council reminded residents and others of the risk that come with flood water and advised people especially children to avoid wading or swimming in flooded areas.

*"As well as snags and submerged objects there is also risk water borne illness from flooded septic tanks and the like. The muddy water also flushes out a range of animals like snakes and we have a reliable report of a two metre plus crocodile sighted in the flooded area of the town."* Mr Berto advised.

It is also expected that the small town of Jilkminggan located about 20 kilometres from Mataranka will be closed but not flooded as flood ways and creeks on the Roper Highway become unpassable.

*"We strongly advise drivers not to attempt to cross flooded sections of road but to wait until the road becomes safe. Attempting to cross deep and fast moving water put not only the driver and passengers at risk but also the emergency services personnel sent in to the rescue."* Mr Berto added.

An updated report will be issued at 0930 hours on Friday.

For further details please direct your enquiries to  
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