

**DAVID TOLLNER - DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER** 

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

**GARY HIGGINS - MEMBER FOR DALY** 

## MEDIA RELEASE

## PEPPIMENARTI MEETING PAVES WAY FOR LOCAL GOVT REFORMS

## **04 November 2013**

More than 100 Indigenous Territorians representing clan groups from Peppimenarti, Wadeye, Palumpa, Nauiyu and surrounding homeland/outstations have thrown their support behind the Country Liberals promised local government reforms.

The representatives of the various Indigenous communities met with Chief Minister Adam Giles, Deputy Chief Minister David Tollner and Member for Daly Gary Higgins last Friday at Peppimenarti to put forward their proposals on the type of local government they wanted implemented in the Daly region.

"There was a strong voice among all present welcoming the Country Liberals promised changes to the delivery of local government," Mr Tollner said.

"The clan groups have been working with the Member for Daly, Gary Higgins, and were keen to discuss with the Chief Minister and myself how they saw their region moving forward for them.

"The decision was strong that they wanted boundary changes to include the Daly and all the areas west of the Daly and to be able to have a greater control over the delivery of shire services within the changed boundaries.

"They have embraced the opportunity to deliver what they believe will be better outcomes for their people."

Member for Daly Gary Higgins said the local Indigenous communities represented at the Peppimenarti meeting were pleased with the progress of their discussions with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

"They want the changes and were particularly pleased to have the Territory's Chief Minister and the Minister responsible for implementing their reforms, sitting down to listen and talk to them, proving that the Country Liberals Government is serious about giving them the changes they want ," Mr Higgins said.

"They have welcomed the CLP government's reform plan to help them determine their own direction with regards to shire services for their communities. Under the reforms the clans are proposing the headquarters for the delivery of shire services in the region would be Peppimenarti."