

14-year-old girl drowns as town mourns tragedy

BY MATT SHERRINGTON

A BODY believed to be that of a girl who went missing on Saturday has been discovered.

The girl had been trying to return home to Daguragu with two friends from the nearby town of Kalkaringi when she was swept away by the strong current.

The teenager and two friends had crossed the creek to go to nearby Kalkaringi but the recent rains flooded the causeway late last week, cutting them off.

They got tired of waiting and decided to swim back, a community member said.

Unfortunately one of the three did not make it back to the other side.

Police and volunteers searched tirelessly during the weekend, on foot and using quad bikes and helicopters.

The body, believed to be that of the

girl, was found around noon on Monday, in the Victoria River, some distance downstream from where the 14-year-old went missing.

Superintendent Kylie Proctor said the body has been recovered but formal identification is yet to occur.

The cause of death is unconfirmed. Detectives from the Northern Investigation Section will be preparing a file for the Coroner.

The two communities, about 480km southwest of Katherine, are now in mourning.

Community members have asked for a bridge to be built so the isolated people at Daguragu can travel safely to Kalkaringi for supplies.

Heavy rains have cut off towns around the NT, with police warning people against attempting to cross flooded creeks and rivers.

New apartments on First



A projected image of a new \$15 million development on First Street.

GROUND work has started on a 22-apartment and two office development on First Street in Katherine's CDB, costing \$15 million as demand continues for quality housing in the town.

The three-level high quality Central Point apartment and office complex is expected to be finished by July this year.

The developer is Northern Reaches a newly created Northern Territory project development company, the brainchild of local Katherine businessman Ivan Horvat.

The first stage of construction is the ground works, which will incorporate a ground-level car park, which will allow all residents of the two-bedroom apartments and office occupants an undercover car space.

A resident's entertainment area incorporating barbecue facilities and a spa are to be built within a landscaped garden setting at the rear of the car park.

The upright construction phase for the units and offices on the first and second floors will start in March.

"The sole purpose in establishing Northern Reaches was to play a part in the future of the Northern Territory, as it rests with people willing to recognise opportunities and invest in tomorrow," Mr Horvat said. "As a local, Katherine was the logical place to start developing projects as it continues to expand. Its population already tops 10,000 and it's growing."

The local man said that up to 30 people will be employed on the

Central Point project at any given time with most skills supplied by local sub contractors.

An indigenous works skills program is also being put in place.

Off-the-plan sales are already underway, with high quality two-bedroom apartments with individual balconies and reverse cycle air conditioning starting at \$550,000. The expectation is sales will be both to owner-occupiers and to investors with a belief in the continued growth and prosperity of Katherine.

Government Community Relations Officer Norman Fay said capital growth in Katherine's housing market has doubled in the last 10 years and Northern Reaches is excited to take advantage of this untapped market.

Cash for cans scheme drafts new legislation

BY PAUL BIDMEADE

THE Northern Territory Government is currently drafting new legislation which could rapidly reduce the amount of handling required for the NT's Cash for Cans Scheme.

The current scheme requires workers at Katherine's M.T. Bins to separate beer, soft drink and other beverage containers into 26 different categories.

Known as splits each container belongs to a group or company and needs to be recorded once the item is re-deemed.

This causes headaches for workers and increases the waiting line for customers. Officer Manager at Katherine's M.T. Bins Kim Laidlaw would welcome new legislation to increase efficiency and accessibility.

"If they did streamline all the categories it will reduce waiting times for

Katherine residents," the mother of five said. The recycling depot is again open for business in 2014, with their opening hours from 8am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays and 8am to midday on Saturdays.

Mrs Laidlaw estimates that M.T. Bins recycles a total of 30,000 containers each day.

Emma Young at the NT Environmental Protection Authority said the Territory Government is committed to making the CDS as efficient and as accessible as possible for Territorians in 2014. "It is anticipated that over the coming 12 months the community will see improvements such as reduced waiting times at depots and improved access once legislative amendments have been made," Ms Young said.

Cash for cans started in NT on January 3 2012.



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