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Indigenous jobs gain boost in regional Queensland

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REGIONAL and remote communities in Northern Australia including Rockhampton are getting a boost with up to 40 new jobs on the way.

New positions will soon be available at Aboriginal Hostels Limited, including the Neville Bonner Hostel in Rockhampton, thanks to the Liberal National decentralisation agenda.

Decentralisation Minister Senator Bridget McKenzie, said the new positions would boost Indigenous employment across Northern Australia.

“By moving these jobs out into regional Australia, we provide a very real economic stimulus to these cities and towns,” Senator McKenzie said.

“More employment means more families in the community, more children in schools, and more customers for local businesses.

“And let’s certainly not forget the fantastic lifestyle that these towns offer with virtually no traffic congestion, easy parking and their natural beauty.”

Up to 40 previously Canberra-based AHL positions will be decentralised by December 2019 across the organisation’s regional network, including hostels in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns, Thursday Island, Mount Isa, Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Perth, Kalgoorlie, South Hedland, Broome and Derby.

“The new positions are part of the significant reforms to the organisation, under the stewardship of Dr Sue Gordon, to make AHL a more customer-focused organisation that prioritises front-line operations across AHL’s hostel network,” Senator McKenzie said.

“The Australian Government’s decentralisation agenda has already relocated more than 1150 jobs since 2013, ensuring the benefits of national economic growth are not restricted to major cities.

“This announcement is another example of the Government backing our regions and follows our recent announcement of up to 69 new or relocated Australian Maritime Safety Authority jobs in Coffs Harbour, Airlie Beach and regional locations across Australia.”

Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion said AHL provided short-term accommodation through a national network of 47 facilities for Ab-

original and Torres Strait Islander Australians travelling, relocating or living away from home to access education, healthcare or jobs.

“We want to support young people – including in Indigenous communities – to have local career options that give them a real option to stay in the regional areas where they grew up,” Senator Scullion said.

“The Australian Government is determined to deliver even more regional jobs through decentralisation.

“We know strong regions equal a strong Australia, with regional Australia producing 70 per cent of the nation’s exports despite having only 30 per cent of the population.”



Mick Zimmerman shows Minister for Decentralisation Senator Bridget McKenzie and Flynn MP Ken O'Dowd his irrigation system.