

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face-to-face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Madam SPEAKER: I thank honourable members for their contributions this morning. After I put the question, I ask members to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Motion agreed to.

Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Bill 2009

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I table a message from His Honour the Administrator relating to the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Bill 2009.

MINISTERIAL REPORTS Arnhem Land Telecommunications Services

Mr HAMPTON (Information, Communications and Technology Policy): Madam Speaker, on 19 September 2008, the Chief Minister announced a project to improve telecommunication services in Arnhem Land. This \$34m project is a partnership between the

Northern Territory government, Telstra, Rio Tinto Alcan, and the Northern Land Council. I am very pleased to report to the House on progress to date.

In just a few short months, some 800 km of optical fibre has been installed between Jabiru and Nhulunbuy. Along the way, the remote communities of Oenpelli, Maningrida, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, and Yirrkala have been directly connected to the optical fibre. Residents are now able to use high-speed broadband at the same costs and service as people enjoy in Alice Springs and Darwin. I am advised that Telstra has already received more than 100 applications for broadband access. Meanwhile, government agencies in these communities are in the process of connecting to the faster broadband network, which will provide schools and clinics with better services.

Access to broadband will complement the government's *Closing the Gap* initiatives to address Indigenous disadvantage across a range of areas including health, education, and business. Attraction and retention of professional staff and workers to remote communities will be assisted by having access to high-quality broadband services. They will now be able to communicate with the rest of the world in the same way that people in larger centres take for granted.

The island communities of Minjilang, Warruwi, Mililingimbi, and Galiwinku will be connected to the optic fibre by high-speed radio links. Work on these radio transmission links will begin as soon as possible, weather permitting, and is expected to be completed by the middle of the coming Dry Season. The Northern Territory government is now in discussions with the Commonwealth government and industry to explore options to deliver access to high-speed broadband to other remote communities in the Territory.

In December, I met with the federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, at the Online and Communications Council meeting held in Melbourne. I took the opportunity to discuss with Senator Conroy the Territory's needs for broadband, particularly in our remote communities where access to high-speed broadband is essential for the delivery of quality health, education, and policing services. Senator Conroy agreed to the Territory Department of Business and Employment and his department exploring options for the provision of broadband services in the Territory.

The Department of Business and Employment has since met in Canberra with Senator Conroy's department to table a broadband initiative that