**PETER CHANDLER** MLA I MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

**LIA FINOCCHIARO** MLA I MEMBER FOR DRYSDALE

**Taminmin College and Durack Primary School Aquaculture Program**

27 July 2016

In June 2016, Taminmin College and Durack Primary School signed funding agreements to undertake a joint venture and provide a hands-on learning experience for their students in aquaculture and aquaponics. Students will raise barramundi fingerlings which will then be the breed stock for release into Durack Lakes and hopefully other local lakes.

The Country Liberals Government enhanced recreational fishing opportunities by releasing 9,000 fingerlings earlier this year into Durack Lakes as part of the Neighbourhood Fishing Program.

Member for Drysdale Lia Finocchiaro said “The project aims at getting Territorians back outside enjoying our beautiful surroundings. By stocking the Durack Lakes with barramundi fingerlings, it has increased the opportunity for recreational fishing and social participation for children and families in the community.”

An extension to this program is the creation of aquaculture education programs at Taminmin College and Durack Primary School.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said “The project, funded by the Department of Education, will provide Taminmin College students the opportunity to obtain a Certificate II in Aquaculture. This qualification will also be available to students from all Darwin, Palmerston and rural senior secondary schools.

“Taminmin College will grow and nurture the fingerlings. The fingerlings will then be transferred to holding tanks at Durack Primary School where primary students will continue to grow and then release the fish into the local lakes.”

Durack Primary School is building a new shed that will house the aquaponics infrastructure and to create agrow-out system, hydroponic system and LED lighting system.

Taminmin College is creating a nursery, grow-out system and purging system as well as constructing a new shade structure off the existing shed, where the aquaponics equipment will be stored.

“Durack Primary School has a nearby lake system in Palmerston where the juvenile fish will be released for recreational fishing.”

There will be non-accredited learning which will be embedded into both schools’ curriculum, taking advantage of the opportunity to create hands on learning experiences for their students.

Outcomes of the joint program will include:

* an improved semi/commercial integrated farming program
* opportunity to expand on the existing food skills hospitality program
* establishment of interactive learning outcomes (STEM based)
* additional income revenue streams
* collaboration with other schools
* improvement of community relations

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