



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

2 May 2006

## **PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

The Territory boasts a pristine environment and unique heritage and Budget 2006 invests in their preservation for future generations, Minister for Environment and Heritage, Marion Scrymgour, announced today.

“The Martin Government has a strong commitment to balancing growth with the protection of our environment and heritage,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Budget 2006 includes more funding to monitor and protect the environment, support local environmental groups and invest in heritage projects.”

### **THE TERRITORY’S UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT**

Protecting our environment is an important part of building the Territory’s future and Budget 2006 begins the implementation of several election commitments.

In Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, a subsidy of up to \$50 will be provided to residents for the purchase of water saving devices.

In Darwin, development of a *Rapid Creek Environment hub* will begin in consultation with owners of the Rapid Creek shopping centre.

Budget 2006 also provides:

- \$3.1 million for the continued development of an *Environment Protection Agency* in the Territory
- \$566 000 for *Environment Grants* to community based groups across the Territory
- \$500 000 for Mary River Wetlands desalination works
- \$120 000 for watering monitoring under the *Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management*
- \$280 000 to protect the environment from cane toads, with Government continuing to provide a \$30 subsidy for each cane toad trap purchased
- \$50 000 for *Cool Communities projects* in Alice Springs; and
- \$1 million for Daly River protection as part of the *Living Rivers initiative*

### **ENHANCING AND PROTECTING OUR PARKS**

Budget 2006 includes more than \$27 million for the Territory’s 90 world-class parks, with funding for 145 rangers and 37 support staff.

The Government will also implement its election commitment to provide \$90,000 for Indigenous rangers in the Ntaria area, west of Alice Springs.

Budget 2006 also provides:

- \$5.9 million for the Territory Wildlife Park in Berry Springs; and
- \$5.7 million for the Desert Wildlife Park in Alice Springs.

## **CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE**

“Preserving our past plays an important part in building our future,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Budget 2006 continues the Martin Government’s efforts to protect and celebrate our unique heritage with:

- \$1 million for heritage, repairs and maintenance
- \$365 000 for *Northern Territory Heritage Grants*; and
- \$114 000 in payments to the National Trust

“The Territory’s beautiful natural environment is what sets it apart from the rest, and Budget 2006 delivers more funding to ensure it can continue to be enjoyed by future generations,” said Ms Scrymgour.

“We are committed to recognising and celebrating our past and building our future, with more support for heritage preservation.”

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