

Great Environment, Great Lifestyle

We are proud of our great lifestyle, so much of which centres around our unique natural and cultural heritage assets.

Territory lifestyle is the third key element of Budget 2004, with this budget recognising that a healthy environment and great lifestyle go hand in hand.

Budget 2004 commits significant funding to enhancing and promoting these wonderful assets for the benefit of Territorians and tourists.

Funding for the independent Office of the Environment and Heritage is worth \$6.1 million, while a further \$84.1 million is allocated to conservation and natural resources.

Building better parks for Territorians to enjoy

Additional funding to Territory parks will ensure they continue to be first-class natural, recreational and tourism resources. Highlights include:

- \$1 million for minor new works for upgraded visitor facilities across park system including Nitmuluk and Chambers Pillar.
- \$500 000 specifically for Gregory National Park.
- \$575 000 specifically for Limmen National Park.
- \$390 000 to upgrade facilities at the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park.
- \$1.3 million for ongoing maintenance of Darwin's George Brown Botanic Gardens.
- \$53 million to seal the Litchfield and Meerenie Loop roads to improve access to national parks.

Balancing growth with lifestyle

The Government is committed to ensuring that development in the Territory occurs on a sustainable basis.

Programs funded in the 2004-05 Budget to promote sustainable development include:

- \$800 000 for environmental assessment and compliance monitoring activities for development projects, including Darwin City Waterfront redevelopment.
- \$150 000 for the cool communities program.
- \$400 000 to implement a coastal and marine program to ensure the sustainable management of marine activities and species.



Maintaining the Territory environment

Territorians enjoy a clean, healthy and safe environment, low in pollution, and the Government aims to keep it that way.

Budget highlights include:

- \$100 000 for a 24-hour pollution response service.
- \$200 000 to ensure sustainable waste management practices.
- \$100 000 to develop a stormwater management strategy.
- \$37 000 and \$49 000 in-kind support for monitoring the impact of bushfire smoke on air quality in the Darwin and Palmerston areas respectively.
- \$600 000 for environmental policy development and implementation.
- \$200 000 to implement a new Northern Territory Strategy for Greenhouse Action.
- \$575 000 to upgrade and maintain the NT flood forecasting service.

Protecting our environment

The Government understands that taking care of our environment is a joint effort with the community. Budget 04 initiatives to encourage community involvement include:

- a \$200 000 boost to \$520 000 to assist local environmental groups, including a new \$460 000 community-based environment protection grants scheme.
- \$365 000 for the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management to protect the centrepiece to Darwin's unique lifestyle, and one of the Territory's greatest natural assets.
- \$330 000 for litter abatement and resource recovery programs.
- \$200 000 for programs to protect native species from cane toads.
- \$150 000 for the NT Greenhouse Friendly Housing Competition to encourage energy and water efficient housing concepts.

Heritage conservation

The Government is committed to promoting and conserving the places and objects that have contributed to shaping the Territory's history and cultural identity and lifestyle.

Budget highlights include:

- \$330 000 for the Northern Territory Heritage Grant Program and support funding for the National Trust.
- \$580 000 for conservation management of Government-owned heritage properties.
- \$260 000 for conservation and interpretive projects for Territory WWII heritage sites.