



Northern Territory

BUDGET 2004

Moving the Territory ahead... **less tax, more jobs, great lifestyle**

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Elliot McAdam

Member for Barkly

18 May 2004

BOOST TO INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE BARKLY

The Barkly region will benefit from Budget 2004, with spending earmarked for major infrastructure development in Tennant Creek and throughout the region.

Member for Barkly Elliot McAdam said the region would receive a share of the \$441 million record infrastructure spend in the Budget.

“Funding for infrastructure, as well as a number of significant tax measures in the Budget, will keep the Barkly moving ahead by providing a significant boost to local business and encouraging employment growth,” Mr McAdam said.

“Budget 2004 includes funding boosts for Tennant Creek hospital, as well as local roads, schools and community safety initiatives.

“It includes \$4.8 million for the first stage of construction to improve access to Borroloola, including rehabilitation of sections of the Carpentaria Highway and Wologorang Road.

“Other key highlights in the Budget include \$750,000 for a fire safety upgrade at Tennant Creek Hospital, while work on the hospital’s renal unit will continue.

BETTER ROADS FOR THE BARKLY

Significant funding will be spent on Barkly region roads to improve transport networks, including:

- \$4.8 million to improve all-weather access to Borroloola. Stage One includes rehabilitation of sections of the Carpentaria Highway and Wologorang Road
- \$680,000 for Stuart Highway rehabilitation and widening
- \$500,000 for pavement rehabilitation on the local roads network
- \$160,000 for a new rising main at Canteen Creek
- \$110,000 for upgrades to Rankin Road, Tennant Creek
- \$150,000 to regrade and seal Nutwood Downs access
- \$70,000 to upgrade Lila Creek crossing at Ryans Bend Road
- \$300,000 for Stage One lining of the main drain in Tennant Creek

BUDGET 2004 BOOST TO BARKLY BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES

Other Budget initiatives to support business and Barkly communities include:

- \$280,000 for Battery Hill Mining Centre for Stage One upgrades including entry road and signage, carparking, new ablution facilities, visitor amenities and entry paths;
- \$290,000 ongoing for the Community Harmony Strategy
- \$10,000 for a town project at Corella Creek
- \$50,000 for landscaping on the Stuart Highway and at the Youth Centre in Elliott



- \$600,000 for geophysical surveys and drilling programs to promote mineral exploration in the region
- \$170,000 for the Territory Business Centre in Tennant Creek
- \$140,000 for regional libraries at Tennant Creek, Elliott and Borroloola

EDUCATION A WINNER

The Barkly region will also benefit from record education funding in the Budget with:

- \$4.12 million for secondary education at Tennant Creek High School
- \$2.9 million for primary and early childhood education at Tennant Creek Primary School
- \$6.88 million for early childhood, primary and post primary education in 14 remote schools

Funding for minor works at Barkly schools includes:

- \$58,000 to shade the basketball courts at Tennant Creek Primary School
- \$6,000 to shade the playground at Tennant Creek Primary School
- \$8,000 for a lawn play area at Robinson River School
- \$9500 for airconditioning in teacher housing at Borroloola

HEALTH FUNDING BOOST

Health has also received record funding in the Budget and funding for the Barkly includes:

- \$7.2 million to provide services at Tennant Creek Hospital
- \$6.3 million for community health services
- \$500,000 for renal dialysis services

KEY INITIATIVES IN BUDGET 2004

The Barkly region will benefit from a range of other initiatives contained in Budget 2004, such as:

- immediately abolishing the HIH levy on business;
- increasing the payroll tax threshold from \$600,000 to \$1 million over the next two years;
- increasing sports grants by \$500,000 to \$5.58 million;
- 120 new police recruits throughout the Territory;
- \$1.25 million extra for the Accelerated Literacy Program in schools;
- \$2.25 million extra for information technology in schools;
- \$500,000 for extra equipment in schools;
- \$300,000 ongoing for a new small grants program for schools.

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