



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

John Ah Kit
Minister for Housing

18 May 2004

\$65 MILLION FOR HOUSING MEANS MORE JOBS FOR TERRITORIANS

The Territory's building and construction sector will benefit from this year's \$65 million housing budget, Housing Minister John Ah Kit said today.

"Our priority in housing spending is to improve and expand government employee housing, especially in remote areas.

"Allocations in this sector will total \$13 million – money which is backing small business to grow and keeping the Territory moving ahead.

"A new feature of the provision of government employee housing is that we will be moving to a direct tenancy model of service delivery, with Housing Services being the lead agency across government in employee housing services," said Mr Ah Kit.

"We will also continue to roll out our community renewal plan, the largest its kind in Territory history, with \$3 million allocated plus a further \$1.5 million on security screening in public housing.

"On top of that, we will be spending \$24.2 million on Indigenous Housing Services to overcome the back log of severe housing shortages in both urban and rural settings," said Mr Ah Kit.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Building on the Government's record spending in upgrading public housing, Budget 2004 contains:

- \$24.2 million for Indigenous housing services
- \$6 million to construct Government employee housing in remote areas
- \$5 million upgrade Government employee housing to current design standards
- \$3 million for community renewal of public housing
- \$3 million for land servicing in remote areas
- \$2 million to replace Government remote employee housing
- \$1.5 million security screens for public housing
- \$1 million for general purpose public housing in Alice Springs

"The \$65 million being spent on housing means more jobs for Territorians," Mr Ah Kit said.

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