



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

Syd Stirling

Treasurer

18 May 2004

RECORD \$441 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Budget 2004 will deliver more jobs and growth for the Territory through a record \$441 million infrastructure program, Treasurer Syd Stirling said today.

The Government's record infrastructure program is targeted at tourism, roads and strategic development.

It is estimated that this cash spending in capital works, minor new works and repairs and maintenance will sustain 4000 jobs throughout the Territory.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE – DELIVERING JOBS

Budget 2004 contains a \$60 million investment in tourism infrastructure over three years, with \$22.7 million to be spent in 2004-05.

Highlights include:

- \$38 million to seal the Mereenie Loop Road over the next three years, with \$10 million in 04-05
- \$15 million to seal the Litchfield Loop Road over the next three years, with \$4.5 million in 04-05
- \$2.5 million for a new cruise ship terminal at Fort Hill Wharf
- \$500,000 for improvements to roadside rests and safety signage
- \$500,000 towards the Katherine Cultural Precinct
- \$500,000 for Gregory National Park
- \$575,000 for Limmen National Park
- \$390,000 to upgrade facilities at the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park
- \$1 million for minor new works to upgrade visitor facilities in Territory parks

ROADS PACKAGE

Budget 2004 contains a \$118.9 million allocation for roads in the Northern Territory.

Highlights include:

- \$1 million for selected upgrading and sealing of the Tanami Road
- \$5 million to upgrade the Victoria River and Lost Creek Bridges
- \$500,000 to upgrade the Ooloo, Fleming and Cadell Roads
- \$500,000 to gravel selected sections of Dorisvale Road
- \$4.8 million to improve all-weather access to Borroloola, as the start of an on-going upgrading program
- \$45 million for repairs and maintenance of Territory roads, including National Highways



INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING ON TERRITORY LIFESTYLE

Infrastructure spending is also aimed at supporting our great lifestyle with more money for recreational fishing, upgrading sporting facilities and enhancing our environment, including:

- \$500,000 for improvements for Palmerston anglers and better access points for recreational fishing at Mule Creek and Rocky Creek (near Borroloola)
- This builds on \$1 million worth of improvements to Buffalo Creek and Dinah Beach boat ramps to be completed in 2003-04

- \$1.7 million to complete the upgrade of Traeger Park
- \$500,000 to construct headworks for the Darwin soccer stadium
- \$1 million for upgrades at the Hidden Valley Raceway
- \$1.8 million for headworks for the Palmerston Recreation Centre

- \$500 000 to control saltwater intrusion at the Mary River wetlands
- \$150,000 to complete walking trails along Katherine River
- \$150,000 for the last stage of walk and bike trails in Alice Springs and upgrade of Olive Pink Reserve entry
- Upgrades continuing to five suburban shopping centres in Darwin (Malak, Rapid Creek, Westralia Street, Alawa and Harriet Place)

BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BETTER SERVICES

The infrastructure program includes significant spending in the areas of health and education with:

- \$1 million to redevelop and refurbish Alawa Primary School
- \$1 million to redevelop and refurbish Nakara Primary School
- \$1 million for upgrades to Sheperdson College
- \$500,000 for Manyallaluk School
- \$500 000 for Emu Point School buildings
- \$220,000 to install a disabled access lift at Casuarina Senior College
- \$250,000 to finalise the upgrade of airconditioning at Gillen Primary School
- \$4 million on new minor new works in schools
- \$750,000 to upgrade fire safety standards at Tennant Creek Hospital
- \$900,000 to upgrade fire safety standards at the Alice Springs Hospital
- \$1.5 million for a new Health Centre in Kalkaringi
- \$2.5 million to construct a birthing centre in Darwin
- \$900,000 to provide local community-based renal services for resident patients at selected locations across the Northern Territory

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

Public housing needs will also be addressed in Budget 2004 with:

- \$7 million to replace and improve Government Employee Housing
- \$6 million to construct new Government Employee Housing
- \$3 million for the community renewal of public housing
- \$500,000 for community crisis accommodation and medium-term housing
- \$1.5 million for security screens for public housing
- \$1 million to build general purpose housing in Alice Springs

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Budget 2004 includes spending on strategic projects across the Territory, which will help create jobs and drive growth in our economy.

Highlights include:

- \$6.2 million towards the Darwin City Waterfront Redevelopment
- \$10.3 million for oil pipelines and associated equipment at East Arm Wharf
- \$7 million for a bulk loading facility for the Darwin Port Corporation
- \$2 million for a port incinerator

“This Government is all about moving the Territory ahead, but doing it in a way that balances growth with our great lifestyle,” Mr Stirling said.

