



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

Member for Nhulunbuy

18 May 2004

GOVE REGION BENEFITS FROM BUDGET INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST

The Gove region will benefit from a number of major infrastructure projects contained in the Budget, which will provide a boost to local business and support jobs growth.

Member for Nhulunbuy and Treasurer Syd Stirling said the region would receive its share of Budget 2004's record \$441 million infrastructure program.

"Gove region schools in particular will receive much-needed enhancements, while the Budget also contains spending to improve our roads and local communities," he said.

BOOST TO GOVE REGION SCHOOLS

Infrastructure upgrades to schools include:

- \$1 million to upgrade Shepherdson College
- \$102,000 for a classroom upgrade at Nhulunbuy High School
- \$22,000 to fully weatherproof the outdoor administration block at Nhulunbuy High School
- \$85,000 for the canteen at Yirrkala school
- the allocation of four two-bedroom transportable houses for teachers at Galiwinku

ROADS AND COMMUNITY FUNDING

Budget 2004 also contains funding injections for essential upgrades to roads in the Gove region, as well as a number of community projects including:

- \$110,000 to seal and upgrade Cape Wirrawoi Road
- \$30,000 to construct a bed level crossing on the Central Arnhem Road
- \$292,000 ongoing for the Community Harmony Strategy
- \$300,000 for a Special Care Centre

Mr Stirling said work would also continue on two projects started last year – the Galiwinku Health Centre upgrade worth \$460,000 and the sealing of the Gapuwiyak Airstrip at a cost of \$800,000.

LOOKING AFTER THE COMMUNITY

As part of record spending on health and education in Budget 2004, Gove region funding includes:

- \$5.48 million for primary and early childhood education at Nhulunbuy Primary School
- \$3.28 million for secondary education at Nhulunbuy High School
- \$460,000 for school and special transport services in the Nhulunbuy region
- \$13 million for acute medical, surgical and obstetrical services at Gove District Hospital



KEY INITIATIVES IN BUDGET 2004

The Gove region will also benefit from a range of other initiatives contained in Budget 2004. They include:

- 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 \$0.5 million 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 school

“This is a Government for all Territorians and that means providing more infrastructure and better services in the regions,” Mr Stirling said.

