



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

Kon Vatskalis

**Minister for Primary Industry
Minister for Mines and Energy**

18 May 2004

BUDGET 2004 DELIVERS FOR TERRITORIANS ON THE LAND

Budget 2004 delivers a good result for Territorians involved in primary industries and resource development, Minister for Primary Industry and Minister for Mines Kon Vatskalis said today.

The Martin Government's record \$441 million infrastructure budget allocates \$118 million for roads, including a repairs and maintenance commitment of almost \$30 million for Territory roads, and \$15 million for Commonwealth funded national highways.

"This means our roads maintenance efforts throughout rural Northern Territory will be increased, with roads of strategic importance to the Territory's economic growth being the focus of these funds," Mr Vatskalis said.

Budget 2004 delivers around \$22 million in direct and indirect support for programs assisting the Territory's primary industry sector and keeping the Territory moving ahead.

SUPPORTING PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Budget 2004 supports primary industries in the Territory through a range of measures including:

- \$1.3 million allocated to industry development support
- \$50,000 for NT Food Group
- \$2.9 million for horticulture research, extension and development programs
- \$3.4 million for plant health, production and protection services
- \$9.2 million for support of livestock industry
- \$3.6 million for agriculture development programs
- \$100,000 for improved management of agricultural and veterinary chemicals

"We're growing the Territory's primary industries and moving the Territory ahead into an exciting future," Mr Vatskalis said.

BUILDING THE TERRITORY'S MINING RESOURCE BASE

Budget 2004 supports further development in the mining industry and job creation by:

- Continued funding of \$3.8 million for "Building the Territory's Resource Base" program, including:
 - \$250,000 towards improving capacity to grant and maintain exploration and mining titles
 - \$300,000 towards engagement with traditional owners
- \$360,000 funding for the building of a new mineralised core library
- \$2.32 million funding for the granting and maintenance of mineral and petroleum titles
- \$3.97 million funding for mine safety and environmental protection.

Contact: Nikola Lekias 0438 323 660

www.nt.gov.au/ocm/media_releases

www.budget.nt.gov.au



Northern Territory Government