



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**

**Chris Burns**

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

18 May 2004

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## ROADS FUNDING TO BOOST TERRITORY JOBS

A \$118.9 million allocation for roads in the Northern Territory contained in Budget 2004 will generate more jobs for Territorians, Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns said today.

Dr Burns said Budget 2004 included:

- \$44.4 million for NT Roads Capital Works Program
- \$29.6 million for Commonwealth Roads Capital Works Program
- \$29.4 million for NT Roads Repairs and Maintenance
- \$15.5 million for Commonwealth Roads Repairs and Maintenance

“Tourism, one of the Territory’s biggest employers, will be a major beneficiary of the commitment to road spending in Budget 2004,” Dr Burns said.

“Over the next three years, \$53 million is being spent on sealing the Mereenie Loop Road and the Litchfield Loop Road, which will provide a boost to local businesses in both regions and will also generate jobs in the tourism sector.

“So not only will the money being spent mean jobs for Territorians during construction, it will generate jobs for the future.

“Spending on roads is also critical to the all-important pastoral industry of the Northern Territory.”

### BUDGET 2004 ROADS PACKAGE

- \$38 million to seal the Mereenie and West MacDonnell Loop Roads over the next three years
- \$15 million to seal the Litchfield Loop Road over the next three years
- \$4.8 million to improve all-weather access to Borroloola, as Stage One of an ongoing upgrading program
- \$1 million for selected upgrading and sealing of the Tanami Road to improve access for the mining, pastoral and tourism industries and remote communities
- \$500,000 for improvements to roadside rests and safety signage, to assist the self-drive tourist market
- \$500,000 to improve drainage and partially seal the Ooloo, Fleming and Cadell Roads, to improve access and assist economic development of the pastoral and agriculture industries
- \$500,000 to gravel selected sections of Dorisvale Road to improve access for pastoral stations and communities and reduce safety risks
- \$1 million for the ongoing upgrading of a number of priority bridges
- \$672,000 to rectify a number of high incident traffic accident sites on NT roads

“Roads have a critical role to play in our long-term plan for the Territory’s ongoing economic development. Budget 2004 helps us with that plan.”

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