



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

Peter Toyne

Minister for Justice

Paul Henderson

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

18 May 2004

SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH MORE POLICE ON THE BEAT

The Martin Labor Government will use Budget 2004 to extend its successful strategy to develop safer Territory communities by continuing to build our Police force along with more spending on crime prevention and improved correctional facilities.

Spending on Police, Fire and Emergency Services will be \$172 million this year, up \$29 million from \$143 million, an increase of 21 per cent over the past two years.

The spending includes the continued roll-out of the Government's four-year \$75 million Building Our Police Force Plan, which will deliver 200 more police on the beat by the end of 2006.

A total of \$8 million will be spent on a new 100-bed low-security prison in Darwin. A total of \$18.5 million will be spent on the implementation of the recommendations of the Correctional Services review focussing on preventing re-offending, safety and security.

In addition to the high level of spending on Police and Corrections, the Budget also provides \$2.52 million for the Office of Crime Prevention to help build a safer Territory.

Money will also continue to be directed to the highly successful Community Harmony Project, which has seen more than 850 itinerants leave Darwin alone under a plan to return them to their communities.

This year \$2.75 million will be directed to the Community Harmony Project dealing with itinerants and anti-social behaviour.

BUILDING OUR POLICE FORCE

The record \$172 million Budget for Police, Fire and Emergency Services includes:

- \$13 million more for Police personnel, enabling record rates of recruitment – 120 constables in five squads a year
- \$400,000 for a 12.1m coastal vessel to be stationed in Darwin as part a \$1 million program to improve police ocean search and rescue and patrolling capacity
- \$2 million for ongoing upgrade and repair of police equipment



SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMPROVED FACILITIES

As part of the Territory Government's record infrastructure spend community safety will be improved by:

- \$8 million for a new low security jail at the Darwin Correctional Centre
- \$1.5 million to improve safety and security in public housing
- more than \$1.8 million to upgrade 66 police houses to help keep experienced officers in the Territory
- \$1 million to construct a police post at Numbulwar
- \$680, 000 to modify and upgrade Police cells at Batchelor, Maranboy and Ti Tree

Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister Paul Henderson said these projects build on the new Darwin CBD police station opened late last year and the new Humpty Doo Police and Fire facility expected to be opened in early 2005.

"We are proud to be delivering on our commitment to get more police on the beat in the Territory," Mr Henderson said.

"The \$26.5 million boost for our prisons will help turn our prison officers into a second crime-fighting force, focussing on preventing re-offending," Dr Toyne said.

SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH CRIME PREVENTION

- \$2.52 million for the Office of Crime Prevention for initiatives, including \$400,000 for Crime Prevention Grants and \$150,000 to continue the process of building law and justice plans in remote communities
- \$680,000 for eight School Attendance Officers to deal with truancy and re-enrolling students back into school
- \$200,000 for developing better reintegration strategies for prisoners being released, a first step in breaking the re-offending cycle
- \$620,000 for justice services including community justice, reintegration, and diversion, the Office of Crime Prevention and Consumer and Business Affairs

ITINERANTS STRATEGY

Budget 2004 includes \$2.75 million to tackle anti-social behaviour and itinerancy. This money will deliver infrastructure and intervention programs across the Territory to tackle the problem

BOOSTING COUNTER TERRORISM CAPABILITIES

- \$400,000 to boost the counter-terrorism capabilities of the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services, including a new bomb response vehicle, specialist training and new Communications equipment.

Record police funding and the continuation of crime prevention programs will build on successes achieved to date in reducing crime rates and building safer communities.

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