



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

John Ah Kit

Minister for Sport and Recreation

18 May 2004

BUILDING ON OUR GREAT TERRITORY LIFESTYLE WITH MORE FUNDS FOR SPORT

The Martin Labor Government will continue building on our great Territory lifestyle in Budget 2004 with \$5.6 million, an increase of \$500,000, for better facilities and grants to assist sporting and recreation bodies, Sports Minister John Ah Kit said today.

"We're keeping the Territory moving ahead by providing more funds for Territorians to enjoy the sports they love," Mr Ah Kit said.

"We will also keep working on bringing even more top-line world-class and national events to the Territory such as international cricket, NBL and AFL matches.

"This budget will pay a strong dividend to Territory sports and recreation groups for the hard work they put into growing their sporting codes.

"A key element of the increase will be to allow the 28 sports groups and 17 local government bodies receiving triennial grant funding a 2.1% CPI increase.

"This rewards those 45 organisations that have adopted good planning principles for the future."

MORE FUNDS FOR SPORT

Budget 2004 highlights include:

- Sports and recreation funding to local government will top \$1 million for the first time
- An increase in allocations to facilities development to more than \$800,000
- The establishment of a new "National League" fund to assist organisations that have teams competing in national competitions. At this stage that includes NT Hockey's Stingers and Pearls, and Rugby Union's Mosquitoes.

MORE WORLD-CLASS AND NATIONAL EVENTS FOR THE TERRITORY

This year's Budget will also help bring Territorians more world-class and national events than ever before including:

- International cricket – Australia versus Sri Lanka – July 2004
- Men's Hockey Test series, Australia versus South Korea – July 2004
- Soccer International Challenge – August 2004
- AFL Premiership match August 2004
- Alice Springs Masters Games – October 2004-05-12
- Wizard Cup game (Darwin) – February 2005
- NBL match - February 2005



- Wizard Cup Challenge match (Alice Springs) – March 2005
- Northern Territory Sports Awards – April 2005
- Arafura Games – May 2005

“Sport and recreation in the Northern Territory is not just a fundamental part of the way we live, but a major contributor to health and well-being, from the towns to the bush,” Mr Ah Kit said.

“The increased allocation places us well to build the sector in the Territory, from school and club sport through to the elite level.”

