



Record Tax Cuts

- Increase the payroll tax free threshold from \$600 000 to \$800 000 from 1 July 2004, with a further increase to \$1 million from 1 July 2005, saving businesses \$7.2 million a year from mid 2005.
- No HIH levy from 18 May 2004, saving 6 600 employers \$2.7 million a year.
- Remove debits tax from 1 July 2005, saving businesses and households about \$6.2 million a year.
- Following these tax cut initiatives, the Territory will be the lowest taxing jurisdiction for small and medium business in Australia.

Supporting Business

- \$160 million over three years to implement the Jobs Plan which will build a highly skilled and flexible work force.
- Substantial support of \$27 million to the tourism industry over three years for marketing the Territory interstate and overseas (\$10 million), and developing Territory tourism products, including Indigenous tourism.
- \$2.2 million for Building the Territory's Resource Base, to promote mineral and petroleum exploration across the Territory.
- \$0.35 million for the Business and Skilled Migration Strategy, to promote the Territory to potential migrants as a place to live, work and establish business.
- The Government's investment and population attraction campaign is raising the Territory's profile nationally and internationally as a place to live, work and invest with an extra \$1 million a year for investment missions.
- Online initiatives such as Territory Business Channel, Connect:NT and Transact:NT make it easier for businesses to transact with Government.

Jobs and Training

- \$38 million to registered training organisations to deliver a broad range of vocational educational and training programs and courses in both urban and remote settings.
- \$11.75 million to prepare, train and support up to 2 400 new apprentices and trainees in 2004-05.
- \$2.1 million for accredited and non-accredited training for Indigenous people living in regional and remote communities.
- The establishment of the Employment Task Force to better coordinate Government-facilitated training and employment initiatives and programs.
- \$1.75 million for the Employer Incentive Scheme to assist employers with the cost of employing new apprentices and trainees.
- \$1.53 million for the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy and \$1.1 million for the Indigenous Arts Strategy.
- \$1 million for the Northern Territory Public Sector Remote Workforce Development Strategy to attract and retain teachers, nurses and other service providers in remote areas.



Highlights

Record Infrastructure Spending

Total spending on infrastructure in the Territory, including capital grants, will be \$441 million in 2004-05. This is the highest cash injection on record.

The budget sector capital works program is \$279 million and incorporates planned cash expenditure of \$182 million, including \$20.5 million for minor new works. Repairs and maintenance expenditure totals \$167 million.



Tourism and Roads

- Mereenie Loop road – stage 1 \$10.0 million
- Litchfield Loop road – stage 1 \$4.5 million
- Darwin City Waterfront redevelopment \$8.2 million
- Cruise ship terminal \$2.5 million
- Tanami Road upgrade \$2.0 million
- Improve access to Borroloola – stage 1 \$4.8 million
- Gregory and Limmen National Park facilities \$1.1 million

AustralAsia Trade Route

- East Arm Port – stage 2 oil pipelines \$10.3 million
- East Arm Port – bulk loading facility \$7.0 million
- East Arm Port – bulk liquids berth and further development of the Wharf area \$5.7 million

Lifestyle and Regional Development

- Palmerston Recreation Centre headworks \$1.8 million
- Katherine Cultural Precinct headworks \$0.5 million
- Darwin Soccer Stadium headworks \$0.5 million
- Complete Traeger Park upgrade \$2.5 million
- Dundee power \$5.2 million
- Undergrounding of Darwin powerlines \$4.0 million
- Mt Johns Valley – stage 1 headworks \$1.0 million
- Urban and remote housing \$41.5 million
- Indigenous essential services and infrastructure \$13.4 million

Community Services

- Darwin Correctional Centre – low security gaol \$8.0 million
- Royal Darwin Hospital – hospice and birth centre \$6.1 million
- Desert Knowledge Precinct \$14.4 million
- New and improved schools \$17.2 million
- Remote health centres \$11.0 million

