

CLARE MARTIN

CHIEF MINISTER

3 May 2005

BACKING THE TERRITORY'S UNIQUE LIFESTYLE

The Martin Government will continue to back and enhance our unique Territory lifestyle with Budget 2005, Chief Minister Clare Martin announced today.

“As well as further tax cuts to back business and more local jobs, Budget 2005 includes more support for those things that make our lifestyle so great – sport, recreational fishing, arts and culture, major events and entertainment,” Ms Martin said.

BACKING RECREATIONAL FISHING

Budget 2005 continues the Martin Government's strong support for recreational fishing with:

- a \$2 million four-year program for new fishing infrastructure
- \$900,000 for recreational fishing programs
- Almost \$170,000 for the Amateur Fisherman's Association NT, which includes funding for grants to clubs
- Continuing research on major fisheries used by recreational fishers
- Continuing fingerling and stocking programs
- Continuing to improve access at Mule Creek, Rocky Creek and Palmerston boat ramps
- Opening up new recreational fishing areas with \$400,000 for Channel Point Reserve infrastructure and \$1.6 million for Point Stuart Road

BETTER SPORT FACILITIES

The Martin Government is also investing strongly in sport with Budget 2005 including:

- \$5.8 million for the Home of Darwin Soccer
- \$800,000 for the Alice Springs Drag Strip
- \$3.8 million over four years for Hidden Valley upgrades
- \$5.95 million for community sports grants
- a new Thoroughbred Racing Industry funding package

BRINGING WORLD CLASS EVENTS TO THE TERRITORY

The Government is continuing to back world-class sporting events in the Territory with:

- \$950,000 for V8 Supercars on 1-3 July 2005
- \$300,000 in total for Bass in the Grass in Darwin and Bass in the Dust in Alice Springs
- Around \$2.3 million for the Arafura Games in May
- Other major events for Territorians to look forward to include: Commonwealth Bank Trophy Netball Match (11 June 2005); Tasar World Championships (1-8 July 2005); Samoa Vs Mosquitos Rugby Union (17 June 2005); Carlton Vs Bulldogs AFL (18 June 2005); Perth Wildcats NBL (January 2006); Wizard Cup AFL – February 2006; and Wizard Cup Challenge Alice Springs – March 2006

ENHANCING THE TERRITORY'S PARK

The Territory's world-renowned Parks will receive support from Budget 2005, with:

- \$7.5 million over three years for improvements to Litchfield National Park
- \$1 million for visitor facilities and other improvements to the West Macdonnells
- \$380,000 for improvements to the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park
- \$150,000 for Watarrka National Park upgrade

BALANCING GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting our environment is an important part of enhancing our lifestyle. Budget 2005 includes:

- \$4.5 million for the Office of Environment and Heritage
- \$1 million for environmental assessment and compliance monitoring of development projects
- \$840,000 to assist the sustainable management of marine activities and species
- \$710,000 for grants and assistance to local environmental groups
- \$500,000 for Mary River Wetlands desalination works
- \$480,000 for programs to protect the environment from cane toads
- \$300,000 for the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
- continuing funding for a 24-hour pollution hotline response service

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Budget 2005 continues the Territory Government's protection and preservation of the Territory's heritage, with:

- \$1 million for heritage areas repairs and maintenance
- \$227,000 for the Northern Territory Heritage Grants
- \$114,000 for the National Trust NT

MORE SUPPORT FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

The Martin Government is proud to continue its backing of the arts and culture sector, with Budget 2005 containing:

- \$4.3 million for the Arts Sponsorship Program
- \$750,000 increase in base funding for the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT
- \$3.16 million to support the 27 public libraries across the Territory
- \$1.1 million in continued support for the Government's Indigenous Arts Strategy

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

Budget 2005 includes Government's backing of our cultural and ethnic diversity, with funding for three major grants programs:

- \$500,000 for the Multicultural Development program
- \$700,000 for the Ethnic Affairs Sponsorship and Grants program
- \$300,000 for the Translating and Interpreting Services program

"We are proud of our great lifestyle and Government is continuing to preserve and enhance it by investing in those things that make it the best in Australia," Ms Martin said.

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