

**ELLIOT McADAM
MEMBER FOR BARKLY**

3 May 2005

BUDGET BOOST FOR BARKLY

Budget 2005 backs the Barkly region, Member for Barkly Elliot McAdam announced today.

“Throughout 2005-06 and into the future, Tennant Creek and Barkly residents will benefit from high levels of spending by the Martin Government,” Mr McAdam said.

“Initiatives in the Budget will see Barkly first home buyers not paying stamp duty on homes costing less than \$200,000. Barkly businesses will benefit from Government’s decision to abolish Electronic Debit Transaction Duty and Debits tax.

“Construction businesses will benefit from the Government’s continued high infrastructure spending valued at \$476 million across the Territory.

“This includes continued work on the first stage of upgrading access to Borroloola at a cost of \$4.8 million, which is expected to be completed in mid 2005.

“Design work will then commence on Stage Two – the Macarthur River Bridge – estimated at around \$3.6 million, with construction planned for 2006. Stage Three involves further improvements to river crossings at a cost of around \$1.8 million and will follow the completion of Stage Two.

“Barkly residents will also benefit from the Martin Government’s continuing strong investment in skills development. Budget 2005 announces four new initiatives available for Barkly businesses, their trainees and apprentices.

“Every new trainee and apprentice will get up to \$500 to spend locally from the Work Wear Work Gear Bonus. Small local businesses will be able to access incentives of \$3000 for taking on a new trainee and \$7000 for taking on an apprentice in a hard-to-fill trade.

“Barkly businesses will be supported in upskilling their existing work force. Local businesses who want to give their employees better skills will benefit from \$500,000 available under *Build Skills NT* announced today.

Budget 2005 delivers a range of other job and training initiatives for the Barkly including:

- \$820,000 in Flexible Response Funding for training in remote Barkly communities
- \$150,000 to train and employ traditional owners for parks and reserves

“Tennant Creek High School students will also be better supported to get into the workforce. VET in schools choices will be expanded. More school based apprenticeships will be available and money aimed at allowing students to work and attend school will be made available in 2005-06.

“Tennant Creek High School also benefits from a total expenditure of \$4.5 million and will receive an additional equipment grant of \$3572.

“This year the Tennant Creek High School’s teaching resources will be enhanced with funding for a Student Counsellor position above normal staffing allocations. The Counsellor will assist teachers to deal with student behaviour issues and will assist students through any personal difficulties they may have.

“Tennant Creek Primary School will receive \$3.7 million for primary and early childhood education. Throughout the Barkly Region \$8.2 million will be provided for childhood, primary and post primary education.

“Uniquely, the Martin Government has established a support unit for teachers in remote schools in the Barkly. The Support unit is assisting teachers at these schools to deal with their day to day needs. The Unit has been trialled since January 2005 has proven to be a significant success, with teachers actively accessing the support of the unit.

“The Martin Government will make this unit permanent starting in Budget 2005, with funding provided for the whole year.

“Each school throughout the Barkly will also receive funding to help them buy new equipment, such as desks and chairs, photocopiers and faxes, fridges and televisions. The breakdown of funds is:

Alekarenge CEC \$2891	Murray Downs \$2110
Alpurrurulam \$2624	Neutral Junction \$1939
Borrooloola CEC \$3712	Newcastle Waters \$1986
Canteen Creek \$2370	Robinson River \$2225
Corella Creek \$1896	Warrego Primary \$1868
Elliott CEC \$2220	Wogayela \$1929
Epenarra \$2513	Kiana \$2035

“Schools through the region will also benefit from an allocation of \$670,000 for the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Program and students with a disability will receive \$170,000 in support programs.

“To ensure literacy and numeracy improvements throughout the Barkly the Government will provide \$370,000.

There will also be more funding for works projects at schools, including:

- \$200,000 for additional classrooms at Robinson River School
- shade and wheelchair access at Borrooloola School

The Martin Government will maintain its strong support for hospital and acute health services in the region. The Tennant Creek Hospital will receive \$8.1 million.

A further \$700,000 will be provided for renal dialysis services to support clients in their homes for community based treatment.

There is also funding of:

- \$84,000 for Alcohol and Other Drugs programs
- \$80,000 for Volatile Substance Abuse rehabilitation services

Barkly non-government organisations delivering health and community services will benefit from an improved indexation program to their grants. Under the new scheme the government will recognise wage movements and cost increases.

A further \$170,000 will be provided to support libraries in Tennant Creek, Elliott and Borroloola.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPENDING IN THE BARKLY

Further spending on regional development, tourism infrastructure, roads and strategic development projects in Budget 2005 will develop the Barkly as a major economic region in the Territory.

\$1.03 million worth of grants will be paid to Indigenous community housing organisations to construct, maintain and manage housing stock.

Other highlights include:

- \$1.25 million for an all-weather aerodrome at Alpururulam and other improvements. In addition \$210 000 for repairs and maintenance on other airstrips.
- \$850,000 matching funds from the Northern Territory to complete upgrades on bridges on the Carpentaria Highway

Tennant Creek Power generation will receive a boost with two replacement generation sets being put into the Tennant Creek power station. Elliot power facilities will be upgraded at a cost of \$475,000 and Borroloola power station will receive a \$550,000 extension.

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES IN THE BARKLY

To build safer communities in the Barkly, Budget 2005 includes:

- \$5.67 million for police, fire and emergency services in the Barkly region
- \$330,000 for repairs, maintenance and minor works to the Barkly region police, fire and emergency services facilities
- \$27,000 for volunteer bushfire brigades in the region
- \$160,000 to continue the Community Harmony Strategy to address anti-social behaviour
- \$340,000 for Tennant Creek community corrections
- \$130,000 to deliver court services in remote communities
- \$24,000 to implement initiatives in the Barkly Regional Crime Prevention Council Community Safety Plan

THE BARKLY LIFESTYLE

Support for parks in the Barkly will be boosted by an increase in the Territory's Parks budget.

\$100,000 will be provided for visitor management in Barkly Parks and \$650,000 to develop a feral animal action plan including the surveying and fencing off of the beautiful Davenport Ranges National Park.

To control weeds on Crown land the Government will allocate the Barkly \$90,000. Funding for the Junior Ranger Program (\$37,000), and the Marine Ranger Program (\$60,000) will support the continued involvement of the community in environmental issues

Community organisations protecting our local environment will be able to apply for grants totalling \$750,000 from the Office of Environment and Heritage.

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