

Lifestyle and



The Territory lifestyle remains a high priority with the Territory Government in 2005-06:

- \$2.9 million will support major events;
- \$22.6 million for sport and recreation;
- Over \$34.4 million for arts, museums and libraries;
- \$94 million for conservation, natural resource management, the environment and heritage;
- \$6.7 million for passenger transport services; and
- \$68 million for public housing services.

Sport and Recreation

- A capital grant of \$5 million will be provided in 2005-06 for stage 1 of the Palmerston Recreation Centre for construction of a two-court multi-purpose indoor recreation and leisure centre.
- \$5.8 million for Darwin soccer stadium.
- \$3.8 million over four years for Hidden Valley Raceway upgrade which includes eight additional pit garages for the V8 Supercars event.
- \$0.3 million from 2005-06 to assist elite Territory athletes to compete at national and international levels.
- Ongoing \$0.5 million to support the staging events in the Territory.

Events

- \$0.29 million for the 2005 V8 Supercars Championships
- \$0.27 million for Australian Football League matches and players' and coaches' camps
- \$0.07 million in 2005-06 for national basketball fixtures in Darwin



- Sports grants of \$5.9 million to assist the development of sporting facilities.
- \$0.08 million to establish Sportsbiz – an advisory unit to strengthen management and governance capacity of sporting organisations.
- \$0.8 million capital grant for the Alice Springs drag strip.
- \$0.5 million for improved recreational fishing infrastructure.

Lifestyle and Environment

- Upgrade of facilities at Territory Wildlife and Alice Springs Desert Parks.
- \$1.2 million additional recurrent funding for management of Territory parks, including the new Channel Point recreation reserve.
- \$1.02 million for Channel Point Reserve ranger accommodation, camping and boat launch facilities, roads and signage.
- \$1.95 million for Litchfield National Park facilities.

Environment

- \$1 million for West MacDonnells National Park facilities.
- \$0.48 million for continued community education and campaigns against cane toads.
- \$0.5 million for Mary River Wetlands desalination works.
- Funding of \$4 million in 2005-06 to continue women's, youth, multicultural and seniors' advancement within the community.
- continuation of \$0.5 million in grants to improve multicultural community facilities.
- \$1.1 million per year for the Northern Territory Indigenous Arts Strategy.
- Additional \$0.75 million a year from 2005-06 for the Bullocky Point museum and art gallery for ongoing development.
- Additional \$0.4 million per annum will be provided from 2005-06 to expand the grants program for festivals, particularly in rural and remote areas of the Territory.
- Northern Territory Film Office grants program to increase by \$0.05 million in 2005-06, \$0.1 million in 2006-07 and \$0.15 million in 2007-08 to enhance the film, television and digital media industries in the Territory.
- \$0.3 million will be provided in 2005-06 for a Public Art Strategy, which aims to enhance the quality of the built environment and public facilities, and support the arts community through economic and professional opportunities.
- \$1.0 million to maintain heritage properties across the Territory.
- Additional funding of \$0.15 million in 2005-06 to implement the repatriation of Indigenous human skeletal remains.
- \$1.79 million per annum to continue the Community Harmony Strategy, which aims to address the health, wellbeing and antisocial behaviours of itinerant groups, and provide opportunities and pathways for itinerants to move away from destructive lifestyles and return to their home communities or lead more productive lifestyles in town.
- \$1.8 million for renovation projects for older public housing stock.



Keeping the Cost of Living Down

The Territory's population is small and widely dispersed and this can drive up the cost of living compared to the rest of Australia. The 2005-06 Budget funds a range of initiatives designed to counteract this influence and keep these costs of living down. For 2005-06 these programs total \$153 million:

- \$43 million so that all Territorians pay the same household water, electricity and sewerage charges, regardless of where they live;
- \$3.6 million in fuel subsidies to reduce the price of fuel, flowing through to lower prices for goods supplied in the Territory;
- \$9.5 million for first home owner grants;
- \$10.9 million in stamp duty concessions for home buyers;
- \$3.7 million in childcare subsidies (\$27 for under 2 year olds and \$20 for over 2 year olds, per child care place, per week);
- \$7.2 million for aged and disabled pensioner concessions to assist with the costs of electricity, water, public transport, spectacles, council rates, motor vehicle registration and drivers' licences;
- \$1.14 million for student bus passes;
- \$82 000 for the Seniors' Card scheme, which entitles Territorians aged over 60 to discounts from participating business; and
- \$74 million for HomeNorth housing assistance measures for low income earners.