

# 2008-09 Budget

Delivering for Territory Families

FACT SHEET

## Territory Families

**Sound economic management underpins Budget 2008 and ensures the benefits of our strong economy flow through to Territory families.**

### Housing Affordability

Conveyance stamp duty rates have been cut providing \$12 million in savings to home buyers, property investors and purchasers of Territory businesses:

- the minimum rate is reduced to 1.5%, down from 2.1%
- the maximum rate is reduced to 4.95%, down from 5.4%, and applies from property values of \$525 000, up from \$500 000
- stamp duty is lower across the full range of property values
- the first home buyer tax free threshold increases from \$350 000 to \$385 000

HomeNorth has been improved again with changes to:

- increase maximum Government equity from \$70 000 to \$75 000
- increase existing income thresholds by \$5000, with further increases for dependants
- price caps increased by region (average around 10%) in line with market changes

### Payroll Tax

Budget 2008 delivers on the Government's 2005 election commitments by cutting the payroll tax rate from 6.2% to 5.9%, saving businesses \$7.2 million per year. This will assist Territory businesses to continue to grow, providing more jobs for Territory families.

### Safer Streets

Community safety receives increased resources with \$4.2 million for the Safer Streets Initiative, rising by \$5.1 million to \$9.3 million in 2009-10.

This will result in an increase of 60 police and 10 auxiliaries whose primary focus will be making our suburbs and main centres safer.

The 60 extra police are on top of the 40 extra resources from the Closing the Gap initiative. Budget 2008 provides for 110 more police resources than a year ago.

### Improving Territory Schools

The Territory Government will build two new schools in Rosebery at a cost of \$48.8 million, providing up to 1450 new primary and middle school places. Budget 2008 includes \$9.5 million for headworks to prepare the site for the schools.

Budget 2008 continues to improve education infrastructure, with a \$9.5 million capital works program in 2008-09. This will provide for upgrades to Alawa, Leanyer, Malak, Ross Park, Nakara and Jingili primary schools.

### Jobs

In the last year jobs in the Territory have grown by over 5000. Budget 2008 continues to deliver financial incentives for employers to take on additional apprentices and trainees.

## Territory Families

### Territory Lifestyle

Budget 2008 also includes infrastructure for our parks and reserves:

- \$5.2 million to upgrade Leanyer Recreation Park, featuring new water slides and more shade
- \$4.4 million to upgrade Litchfield National Park visitor facilities
- \$1.5 million to build the Fogg Dam Monsoon Forest Boardwalk
- \$1.5 million to develop the Red Centre Way Interpretative Centre for the West MacDonnell National Park

Budget 2008 continues the commitment to boat ramps across the Territory including:

- \$4.6 million for a new boat ramp and for continuing works to provide associated facilities at East Arm
- \$1 million to improve fishing infrastructure across the Top End
- \$0.45 million to construct a new pontoon at Dinah Beach

### Investing in Our Future

Budget 2008 continues to attract development to maintain a strong economy in the Territory:

- \$110 million Tiger Brennan Drive project, to be done in conjunction with the Commonwealth, will meet the needs of a growing population
- promotion of gas developments
- increased tourism opportunities contributing to the economy and employment opportunities, particularly in regional centres

### Looking After the Health of Territory Families

Budget 2008 will focus on health care for families by providing access to specialist health services.

\$2 million has been provided for the Northern Territory Patient Assistance Travel Scheme to help Territorians travelling interstate for health care by:

- doubling the current commitment, adding \$1 million to enable a family member to travel with patients going interstate for surgery or intensive treatment
- \$225 000 to increase the commercial accommodation allowance from \$33 to \$35 per night – the equal highest in Australia
- \$60 000 to introduce a \$40 voucher for the return trip between the airport and accommodation if interstate

### Closing the Gap

Budget 2008 continues the significant initiatives aimed at Closing the Gap of Indigenous Disadvantage, including:

- \$5.95 million for a range of education and early childhood initiatives
- \$11.7 million for remote community education centres and new mobile preschools
- \$12.6 million for initiatives aimed at protecting our children and preventing harm