Budget 2009 will deliver strategic investment for our resources, primary industries and fisheries sectors and protect Territory jobs.

Minister for Resources and Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Kon Vatskalis, today said Budget 2009 delivers a record $1.3 billion infrastructure investment that will benefit resources, fisheries and primary industries.

"Record infrastructure funding protects jobs across the Territory and will strongly benefit our resources and primary industries," Mr Vatskalis said.

“A key feature of our $1.3 billion infrastructure investment is a $322 million allocation to improve the Territory’s roads and national highways.

“Budget 2009 delivers several programs and initiatives to ensure every opportunity within resource based industries is maximised to protect jobs and build the Territory.”

BRINGING FORWARD DISCOVERY

“Budget 2009 delivers $3.8 million as part of the total $14.4 million, four-year Bringing Forward Discovery strategy to promote mining opportunities in the Territory and protect Territory jobs," Mr Vatskalis said.

“More mining activity will protect jobs for Territory families and help build the Territory’s resources base.”

ONGOING INVESTMENT IN RESOURCES TO PROTECT TERRITORY JOBS

Budget 2009 supports ongoing investment in resources by delivering:

- Ongoing support for the $4.6 million Alice Springs Solar Cities renewable energy program;
- $3.7 million of Commonwealth funding for rebates to undertake major renewable energy projects in three Indigenous communities;
- $3.1 million to ensure compliance with legislation in the mining, energy and exploration industries and implementation of environmental best practice;
Continuing implementation of the $2.4 million three-year Drilling and Geophysics Collaborations initiative to increase intensity of exploration drilling and geophysical surveys in the Territory;

$1.8 million over three years for the management and sustainable use of inshore marine resources; and

$900,000 to implement strategies to increase exploration access to Aboriginal land.

INVESTING IN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND PROTECTING JOBS

Budget 2009 will deliver $37.5 million to protect jobs in primary industries including:

- $5 million for crops, forestry and horticulture research and extension, including research farms throughout the Territory;
- $1.95 million for entomology, plant pathology and agricultural chemistry services to primary industries;
- $1.8 million for veterinary laboratory services providing animal health testing for livestock industries;
- $990,000 for a range of extension methods to increase Territory pastoral industry knowledge;
- $650,000 to undertake specific research to improve the performance of breeder cattle to assist the pastoral industry to become more efficient and better positioned to meet emerging markets;
- $450,000 to increase the participation of Indigenous Territorians in the Territory pastoral industry;
- $280,000 for native and improved pastures research;
- $200,000 to implement the Plant Health and Livestock Acts throughout the Northern Territory; and
- $100,000 to expand markets for Territory livestock.

MAKING FISHING EVEN BETTER

Budget 2009 will deliver:

- $4 million to upgrade the Palmerston Boat Ramp, including a security compound, lighting and water and a floating pontoon;
- $1.6 million in research funding to ensure that our fisheries are sustainable into the future;
- $641,000 supporting an Indigenous Marine Ranger program;
- $275,000 to examine the habits of anglers through a Recreational Fishing Survey;
- $1 million to improve facilities and access for anglers.

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