Budget win for Katherine

Traffic flow between Darwin and Katherine is set to improve with a $5 million funding boost for overtaking lanes along the Stuart Highway in the upcoming Territory Budget 2011.

Minister for Lands and Planning, Gerry McCarthy said the project was part of the Territory Government’s growing the Territory initiative.

“The Henderson Government is investing in Growing the Territory and providing infrastructure to support our growing regional towns,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This is a $5 million investment into improving traffic flow for residents, and help provide a boost for industry, tourism and regional development.”

“The project has been made possible through a Federally funded works program and demonstrates the Commonwealth Government’s commitment to working with the Territory on improving our roads and increasing access to our communities.”

Minister McCarthy said three overtaking sections of 3 km each will be constructed in the project at several sites along the Stuart Highway, improving traffic flow to and from Katherine.

Nominal sites include:
- Southbound near Chinner Road – north of the Batchelor turn-off
- Southbound near Ringwood Road – south of the Batchelor turn-off
- Northbound near Springhill Road – north of Pine Creek

Minister McCarthy said extensive repair works are being schedules for the Stuart Highway in the aftermath of a record wet season.

“The record amount of rain that has fallen this wet season has put an enormous amount of pressure on our roads and we have a big repair job ahead of us,” Mr McCarthy said.

“There are now 23 crews of 6 working around the clock to patch up the road where there is damage and we have heavy machinery on standby ready to bring in once water has subsided.”

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