More than $38 million injection into improving roads and transport across Darwin Palmerston and Litchfield

More than $38 million is being invested to provide better roads and public transport across Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield the Territory Government’s 2011 Budget, Minister for Construction, Gerry McCarthy, announced today.

“The Henderson Government is investing in growing the Territory and providing infrastructure to support the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield region,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This investment is about getting people home to their families quicker and safer.

“We’re injecting more than $37 million into improving the roads for motorists in the Darwin, Palmerston Litchfield region and providing better traffic flow and improved safety for pedestrians.

“$1.7 million will also be invested into improving our public transport system across Darwin and Palmerston including new bus bays, bus shelters, and better communication for passengers.”

“With work coming along rapidly to provide homes for up to 15,000 people in Palmerston over the next five years, we’re investing in infrastructure to support the population growth – including a $6 million investment to upgrade to Jenkins Road – a key road for the development of Weddell.”

In addition the Territory continues to work with the Commonwealth to deliver the $127 million Tiger Brennan Drive project, with construction of stage 3, the Berrimah Road rail overpass.
“This more than $38 million investment into the Darwin Palmerston region is part of our $307 million commitment into improving Territory roads including upgrades to five major roads, and will provide better safer roads for motorists.”

$1.73 million on public transport:

- $300,000 investment towards providing 4 additional bus bays at Palmerston Bus Interchange to cater for a growing Palmerston
- $200,000 to provide a covered walk way between Humpty Doo Terminal and Taminmin High School
- $500,000 to upgrade and replace bus shelters across Darwin to provide disability access
- $300,000 to replace and upgrade bus shelters across the Territory to maintain high standards of passenger comfort, protection from the elements and security
- $100,000 to install disabled toilets at Palmerston and Casuarina Interchanges
- $300,000 to install new bus stop signs in Darwin
- $30,000 investment to install a PA system at Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston Bus Interchanges to allow passengers to receive important travel information

$630,000 on road network projects:

- $200,000 investment into installing uninterruptible power supply to traffic signals at the Trower/Vanderlin and Stuart / Deviney intersections and various locations across Darwin and Palmerston
- $50,000 investment into upgrading pedestrian crossings at various locations
- $60,000 investment into constructing a pedestrian refuge at McMillans Road near Carnoustie Circuit to provide a safe crossing point
- $120,000 investment into constructing a pedestrian refuge at Vanderlin Drive near Kalymnos Drive to provide a safe crossing point

Other projects to be delivered across the Territory with funding support from the Australian Government in 2011-12 include:

- $5.6 million to continue the Black Spot program and ongoing delivery of the Roads to Recovery program to improve local roads.
$3 million investment into continued pavement strengthening and widening on sections of the Territory’s rural arterial road network, secondary roads and local roads.

$23 million investment into upgrading sections of the national network, including construction of road safety infrastructure, flood immunity improvements and strengthening and widening.

Minister for Construction Gerry McCarthy said the record wet season had placed pressure on Territory roads.

“The Territory Government has responsibility for a 22,000 kilometre road network and the record rain this wet season has caused significant flood damage,” Mr McCarthy said.

“We have a big repair job ahead of us - 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.”

“Repairing, upgrading and maintaining our road network is a massive long term job, and we will continue to put the resources and funding in to provide an accessible, safe road network. That is why we have injected a further $14 million into the Territory Roads repairs and maintenance Budget for a total of $74 million in 2011-12 to assist in repairing flood damaged roads across the Territory.”

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