Today’s Mini Budget will see funds focused on frontline services and long term development for the Barkly Region.

Treasurer Robyn Lambley said keeping promises to people in the Barkly was a priority of this Government.

Included in the Mini Budget, specific to the Barkly Region:

- $700,000 in 2013-14 and $200,000 ongoing from 2014-15 to expand the capacity of existing family support service providers in the Tennant Creek region.
- $2.5 million to upgrade and seal the Utopia airstrip

The Mini Budget has confirmed that Commonwealth funding will continue for the following two projects:

- $6.2 million in 2012-13 for a remote health clinic in Elliott.
- $3.7 million in 2012-13 to redevelop the Emergency Department at the Tennant Creek Hospital

“In addition to these announcements there are a number of Territory wide programs that will benefit people in the Barkly,” Mrs Lambley said.

“We will be funding the improvement of housing properties in homelands and outstations with an additional $14 million over the next four years.

“The Mills Government will govern for all Territorians. We do not pit one part of the Territory against another. Our election commitments are spread across the depth and breadth of the Territory and we will ensure that they are delivered.”

The Tennant Creek plane service will be replaced with vehicle transport at a much lower costs.

“The plane is used for staff travel far more than for patients needing to travel to Alice Springs, and is a costly service.
Options are being explored to replace the fly-in fly out private practitioner in Tennant Creek with a GP based in the hospital.

This will reduce costs by $453,000 ongoing from 2013-14 and provide a better, more certain service for Tennant Creek patients.

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