ADAM GILES  
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

RENEWED FOCUS ON BUILDING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

4 December, 2012

A restructure of Department of Infrastructure, including the Construction Division, will deliver savings of $2.8 million this financial year.

Infrastructure Minister Adam Giles said the savings would be provided as part of the NT Government’s commitment to balancing the budget and putting the Territory back on track.

“Labor has left the state of the Territory’s finances in a mess which has necessitated re-setting the priorities of Government and implementing austerity measures across all Government agencies including the Department of Infrastructure,” Mr Giles said.

“The Department of Infrastructure has delivered good work and going forward there will be a further emphasis on providing value for money services, and delivering quality infrastructure on time and within budget.

“As a result of the austerity measures the department has identified an achievable $2.8 million savings in 2012-13, increasing to $17.5 million in 2015-16.

“As part of the saving measures identified, the department will move the Infrastructure Services Branch out to Highway House in Palmerston and enable the Chan Building to be rented out.

“There will be a staff reduction of 20 per cent to be achieved by natural attrition over four years.

Mr Giles said capital works will reduce over the forward estimates period as private sector construction investment picks up.

He confirmed a $33 million commitment to further stages of Tiger Brennan Drive and $10 million for the Palmerston Hospital stage 1 works remains on the Capital Works Program.

“I am happy to advise the Government has committed an extra $100 million to repairs and maintenance over the next four years to keep our Government building assets well maintained. This is good news for small businesses, local tradespeople and suppliers.

“I will be chairing a Ministerial Oversight Committee to correct the costly mess Labor left in managing its assets, and will focus on achieving an efficient and functional Asset Management System that the Territory Government can utilise to its full potential.

“This Government wants a strong, efficient and effective public service to deliver in line with its four principles: economy, culture, social and environmental.
"I have also requested an increased focus on purchasing at the local community level to support local Territory businesses.

"I look forwarding to working with the Department of Infrastructure in achieving the outcomes of this Government."

Additional work approved for the 2012-13 Capital Works Program includes:

- $35 million for rehabilitation centres
- $2 million to upgrade Nightcliff Police Station
- $2 million for Katherine Police and Fire station air conditioning replacement
- $0.9 million in Commonwealth funding for Milikapiti police facilities and overnight accommodation
- $2.2 million for RGM Maintenance development at the Defence Support Hub
- $6.9 million in Commonwealth funding for remote teacher housing
- $1 million for Taminmin College canteen facilities
- $0.6 million in Commonwealth funding for Tactical Response Group equipment and storage at the Peter McAulay Centre

Media Contact: Bruce Cutler 0457509133