**FOCUS ON THE CENTRE**

December 4th, 2012

“My Central Australian colleagues and I have moved swiftly since the election of the Country Liberals Government to reverse years of neglect in Alice Springs and the Central Australian region,” says Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Central Australia, Robyn Lambley.

“Today’s Mini Budget outlines a range of measures designed to boost services and improve safety in the Centre, in keeping with the Country Liberals’ contract with the people of Alice Springs.

“Law and order measures have been given a high priority.

“Most substantial among those will be the deployment of 20 additional police officers to the Town by July 2014. This is in addition to the 30 new officers assigned to Alice Springs from the latest graduation group.

“This is part of a broader roll-out of 120 officers across the Territory, costing $52.5 million over the next three years.

“Other measures include an additional prisoner working party based at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre, $670,000 a year from 2012-13 additional funding for the Juvenile Detention Centre, and a $2.5 million capital grant in 2012-13 to upgrade and transition the Alice Springs Youth Centre to a Police and Citizens Youth Club.

“Additional funding will be made available for CCTV monitoring support in Katherine and Alice Springs.

“The Country Liberals Government is also committed to growing lifestyle options in Alice Springs and the Centre, committing $300,000 to develop a business plan and undertake urgent repair work at Alice Springs Golf Club, $2 million to upgrade Anzac Oval and $45,000 to upgrade lighting at the Alice Springs Karting Facility.”

Other funding for Central Australia includes $2.4 million in 2012-13 increasing to $5.8 million in 2015-16 to meet the costs of operating the new Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Department with capital projects confirmed for:

- $4.6 million for the Alice Springs Correctional Centre to support an additional 50 prisoners;
- $5 million for works at Alice Springs hospital;
- $6.4 million in Commonwealth funding for a health clinic at Ntaria;
- $1.8 million in Commonwealth funding to upgrade the Papunya Health Clinic;
- $5 million for the Red Centre Way/Mereenie Loop Road; and
- $2 million to upgrade and seal works on Tanami Road.

The Centre will also receive a share of the $14 million being rolled-out for homelands and outstations over the next four years.

“As the Member for Araluen, I am proud to have worked with my Central Australian colleagues to have secured these initiatives for the town,” Mrs Lambley said.

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