Denis Burke
Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure
Defence Support

*Beef road funding a sham*

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The Northern Territory Government announcement of an extra $10 million to upgrade Northern Territory’s beef roads is a sham, CLP Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Denis Burke said today.

“Like most Martin Labor Government announcements the real truth is in the fine print. In this case the fine print reveals that only $6 million will be spent this year on our beef roads, despite the Territory Government promising our cattle industry more,” Mr Burke said.

“Six million dollars over the next year will achieve very little and the $4 million being provided in two years time will achieve even less.

“Describing this as a big win for Territory pastoralists who rely on the roads for their livelihood is an insult to the intelligence of pastoralists.

“It was revealed during Budget Estimates that the Territory Government had an election holding fund flush with millions of dollars and the $36 million in extra GST revenue was only part of it. Given the GST kitty will have swollen beyond belief next year and the wet season will cause further road damage, it is laughable that the Government is only going to spend a paltry $4 million in the second year of its funding plan.

"The Martin Government promised to spend the extra money on strategic investment infrastructure. Instead it is squirreling the remaining $30 million plus away rather than fulfilling its promise.

“Infrastructure Minister Chris Burns hasn’t listened closely enough to the arguments presented by the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association.”

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