The Territory’s unique lifestyle makes it a great place to live and work, and Budget 2006 helps ensure Territorians can enjoy that lifestyle into the future, Chief Minister Clare Martin said today.

“As well as delivering further tax cuts and more support for families, Budget 2006 continues this Government’s investment in our lifestyle, with more spending on sport, fishing, arts and culture, major events and entertainment,” Ms Martin said.

BUILDING OUR SPORTING FACILITIES

The Martin Government is continuing to invest in sport to ensure it has a strong future for current and future generations to enjoy.

Budget 2006 highlights include:
- $6 million for sporting grants, with $41 million provided since 2001
- $6.8 million for the Thoroughbred Racing Industry in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and rural areas
- $3.5 million for the Northern Territory Institute of Sport
- $1.05 million to run the V8 Supercars
- Completion of the Home of Darwin Football – a $5.8 million project

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF RECREATIONAL FISHING

Budget 2006 strongly supports the future of recreational fishing – the lure of the Territory – with a focus on resource protection and research.

“To protect our precious recreational fishing resources, the Government is spending more than $1 million over three years to buy back fishing licences,” Ms Martin said.

“The priority will be to remove coastal netting licences from Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay.”

Budget 2006 also includes funding for fisheries research projects to build and sustain our stocks for the future.

INVESTING IN MAJOR EVENTS

Budget 2006 continues the Martin Government’s push to bring world class major events to the Territory.

In 2006-07, the Government will support:
- International cricket at Marrara from June 30 to July 14 2006
• AFL matches including an August 2006 game between the Western Bulldogs and Port Adelaide, and an Aboriginal All Stars match early in 2007
• $550 000 for the Alice Springs Masters Games from 21 to 28 October 2006
• A National Basketball League match in 2007
• $2.3 million for the Arafura Games from 12 to 19 May 2007
• $1.05 million for the V8 Supercars on 30 June – 2 July 2006
• $350 000 for Bass in the Grass in Darwin and Bass in the Dust in Alice Springs

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Protecting the environment is an important part of building the Territory’s future and Budget 2006 begins the implementation of a number of election commitments.

In Alice Springs and Tennant Creek a subsidy of up to $50 will be provided to residents for the purchase of water saving devices.

In Darwin, the planned development of a Rapid Creek Environment Hub will begin.

Budget 2006 also provides:
• $3.1 million for the continued development of an Environment Protection Agency in the Territory, $1 million for protecting the Daly River, as part of the Living Rivers initiative
• $566 000 for Environment Grants to community-based groups across the Territory
• $500 000 for the Mary River Wetlands desalination project
• $120 000 for water monitoring under the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
• $280 000 to protect the environment from cane toads, with the Government providing a $30 subsidy for each trap purchased
• $50 000 for the Cool Communities project in Alice Springs

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Preserving our past is an important part of building our future.

Budget 2006 helps protect and preserve the Territory’s unique heritage with:
• $1 million for heritage repairs and maintenance
• $365 000 for Northern Territory heritage grants
• $114 000 in payments to the National Trust

SUPPORTING ARTS AND CULTURE

The Territory has a proud creative tradition, and Budget 2006 builds on this by investing in a strong future for local arts and culture.

Highlights include:
• $5.1 million in arts sponsorship, including Arts NT grants, NT Film Office grants and Public Arts grants
• $8.7 million for the Museum and Art Gallery at Bullocky Point
• $3.5 million for the Araluen and Alice Springs Arts precincts
• $355 000 for the Strehlow Museum at Alice Springs
• $3.8 million for 27 Public Libraries across the Territory
• $300 000 for the Territory’s first Public Art program

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

Budget 2006 continues Government’s support of our multicultural diversity and helps cement its future with:

• $740 000 for the Multicultural Affairs Sponsorship Grant
• $340 000 for the Translating and Interpreting Service
• $400 000 for the Multicultural Facilities Development Program

“Territorians enjoy a unique lifestyle and we want to ensure we preserve it and build on it for future generations,” Ms Martin said.

Contact: Richard O’Leary 0401 119 586