BUILDING THE FUTURE OF EAST ARNHEM

Budget 2006 will build the future of East Arnhem residents by creating jobs, growing the economic base and building a stronger Territory, according to Nhulunbuy MLA and Treasurer Syd Stirling.

“This year the Martin Government’s budget delivers economic growth and creates thousands of jobs for Territorians,” said Mr Stirling.

“It delivers on the Martin Government’s priorities of:

• Growing and supporting business
• improving educational outcomes
• building a healthier Territory
• providing a safer community; and
• enhancing our great lifestyle.

“Budget 2006 delivers these goals within sound and sustainable fiscal parameters,” Mr Stirling said.

“The Government is growing the Territory and creating jobs through:

• continuing tax cuts for business
• investing $482 million in infrastructure
• significant investment in tourism marketing; and
• record budgets for Education, Health and Police.”

TAX CUTS CONTINUE IN BUDGET 2006. BACKING BUSINESS TO GROW INTO THE FUTURE

Nhulunbuy businesses will benefit from the Martin Government’s continuing tax reform that makes the Territory the lowest taxing jurisdiction for small business and business with up to 100 staff.

In Budget 2006 the payroll tax free threshold will be raised to $1.25 million, and two further stamp duties will be cut from business.

INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING REMAINS HIGH - MORE JOBS FOR LOCALS

Mr Stirling said that $482 million would be spent on infrastructure projects across the Territory during 2006-07. Funding for the East Arnhem region includes:

• $8.7 million for Indigenous Community Housing Organisations to construct and upgrade Indigenous housing
• $1.3 million for upgrading the Central Arnhem Road from Beswick to Nhulunbuy
• $650 000 for ongoing works at Mapurru Homeland Centre
• $350 000 to complete works at the Donyddji Homeland Centre
• $610 000 to upgrade the sewer at Miligimbi
• $540 000 for fuel bunding at the power station at Galiwinku
• $500 000 to upgrade the Yirrkala Health Clinic; and
• $250 000 to form and gravel boggy sections along the Ramingining Link

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN TOURISM MARKETING - BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMIC BASE FOR THE FUTURE

In response to the tourism crisis of 2003, the Martin Government injected $27.5 million into tourism marketing over three years. Budget 2006 makes that an ongoing commitment with $10 million added to the tourism budget each year.

In 2006, $27.6 million will be spent on tourism marketing. A total of $38.3 million will be provided for the tourism budget as a whole.

BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY

Budget 2006 delivers record spending of $212 million on Police, Fire and Emergency Services to build safer futures for Territory communities.

East Arnhem residents will benefit from the funding with:

• $5.8 million for Police, Fire and Emergency services, including two police stations, two police posts, one fire station and three volunteer groups
• $560 000 for Groote Eylandt and Nhulunbuy community corrections; and
• $240 000 for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities including Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Galiwinku

LIFTING EDUCATION OUTCOMES AND SKILLS IN THE TERRITORY

As part of a record Employment, Education and Training budget of $630.7 million, East Arnhem will receive:

• $22.7 million for early childhood, primary and secondary education in 11 remote schools in the region
• $8.2 million for primary and early childhood education at Nhulunbuy Primary School
• $7.3 million for secondary education at Nhulunbuy High School
• $2.7 million for Indigenous Education Strategic initiatives
• $1.3 million assistance for non-government schools in the region
• $1.5 million for student and school support services, including curricular for schools and special needs support
• $1.2 million for literacy and numeracy programs and drug education; and
• $370 000 to support students with a disability
BUILDING A HEALTHIER TERRITORY FUTURE

Budget 2006 sees a high level of investment in Health and Community Services with a record $788.6 million. This brings spending in this critical area up by 64% since the Martin Government was elected to office in 2001.

“This investment is critical in overcoming ill health and its causes,” Mr Stirling said.

The East Arnhem region will receive:

- $17.8 million for acute care services in the region
- $13.8 million for non-acute health and community services
- $580,000 for the Nhulunbuy Special Care Centre
- $100,000 to increase visiting specialist mental health services for the region; and
- $38,000 to implement a new Home and Community Care service in Milingimbi

ENHANCING A GREAT LIFESTYLE

The Territory Government is investing in the future of all Territorians by building on and enhancing our unique lifestyle.

The Government’s investment in the Territory’s lifestyle attracts people to our community and supports Territory families.

Budget 2006 includes:

- support for recreational fishing with $1 million over three years to buy back fishing licences
- $3.1 million for the continued development of an Environment Protection Agency in the Territory
- $27 million for Territory parks
- $230,000 to monitor the environmental impact of operational and closed mine sites including Alcan G3
- $180,000 for the Marine Rangers Program
- Continued backing for world class events
- $6 million for sporting grants
- $740,000 for the Multicultural Affairs Sponsorship Grant and $400,000 for the multicultural facilities development program
- $1 million for heritage area repairs and maintenance; and
- $5.1 million for arts sponsorship

“Budget 2006 is about building the Territory’s future. It builds on the successful economic and social policies of the Martin Government over the last five years and provides for a stronger future by developing our economic base.

“It is about jobs, growth and a stronger Territory,” Mr Stirling said.

Michelle Fraser 8901 4010 or 0407 642 011

Moving the Territory Ahead