Families in the Barkly will benefit from Budget 2008 with more being invested in the region.

“Budget 2008 is delivering more for families living in the Barkly with increased investment in services and facilities for today and the future,” Treasurer Delia Lawrie said.

“This is a budget that invests in the future of the Territory with record funding in health, education, police and infrastructure.

“The Territory has one of the strongest economies in the nation and the Henderson Government is making sure the benefits are passed on to Territory families, wherever they live.

“Delivering a strong economy hasn’t happened by accident, it has been the result of the Northern Territory Government’s planning and sound financial management.

“The Henderson Government is investing in the future of the Barkly in Budget 2008.”

HOME OWNERSHIP

“Budget 2008 includes changes to HomeNorth and stamp duty cuts that will help more Territorians buy their own home,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Budget 2008 delivers a comprehensive home ownership package to help more Territory families.

“The HomeNorth price cap for Tennant Creek has been increased to $105,000 from $85,000.

“All stamp duty rates have been reduced – this will benefit all people that buy a home in the Territory.

“The first home buyers stamp duty concession has been increased from $350,000 to $385,000.

“Income limits for HomeNorth have also been increased to give more Territorians access to the scheme.”
SAFER STREETS

“In Budget 2008 Police, Fire and Emergency Services funding across the Territory is $247 million, an increase of 81% since 2001,” Ms Lawrie said.

“More is being invested to build a safer community with $7.06 million in Budget 2008 for police, fire and emergency services in the Barkly.”

Funding in Budget 2008 includes $1.3 million for a sobering up shelter, $1.2 million for Tennant Creek community corrections, $160,000 for courts in regional and remote communities and $55,000 for better lighting in urban parks.

SECURING OUR FAMILIES’ HEALTH

Budget 2008 delivers a record $915 million for health and families - that is an increase of 89% since 2001.

The Tennant Creek Hospital will receive $11.6 million for Tennant Creek Hospital – up 90% since 2001.

INFRASTRUCTURE

“Budget 2008 invests in the future of the Territory, with a record cash infrastructure budget of $870 million,” said Ms Lawrie.

“This is an increase of $4.3 billion since 2001 and will mean better roads, more buildings and facilities for people all across the Territory.”

Budget 2008 delivers a record roads budget of $271 million with $71 million for repairs and maintenance. This will see upgrades to roads right across the Barkly.

Infrastructure highlights in Budget 2008 include:

- $2.3 million for continuing fire safety upgrades at Tennant Creek Hospital.
- $1.4 million to replace a generator at the Tennant Creek Power Station.
- $1.3 million for a sobering up shelter in Tennant Creek.
- $1 million for new senior facilities at Alerkarange.
- $430,000 to replace a generator at the Elliot Power Station.
- $100,000 to upgrade the Elliot sport and recreation centre.

BUSINESS

Budget 2008 delivers more benefits to business with tax cuts ensuring that Northern Territory remains the lowest taxing jurisdiction for small and medium sized business in Australia.

Business with up to 100 staff pay the lowest recurrent taxes in Australia.
TOURISM

Budget 2008 delivers more to develop tourism in the Barkly region including:

- $140,000 for Barkly tourism marketing and industry development.
- $100,000 for a local tourism development officer.
- $90,000 for the Battery Hill Mining Centre visitor information services.
- $30,000 for the Barkly Regional Tourism Development Plan.

“The Henderson Government is delivering for families in the Barkly by investing in the future of the region,” Ms Lawrie said.

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***Please note this press release covers portfolios under the jurisdiction of other Ministers. Please direct enquiries to the appropriate Ministerial office***