INVESTING IN THE FUTURE FOR THE KATHERINE REGION

Budget 2008 will invest more in the Katherine region, delivering more services and facilities for families for today and the future.

“The Henderson Government is focused on delivering more for Territory families in Budget 2008,” Treasurer Delia Lawrie said.

“Budget 2008 is firmly focused on delivering for Territory families and investing 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 ensuring the benefits are passed on to families is a priority of the Henderson Government.”

HOME OWNERSHIP

“More Katherine families will be able to become home owners under changes to HomeNorth and stamp duty in Budget 2008,” Ms Lawrie said.

“All home buyers will benefit from stamp duty reductions in Budget 2008.

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

“The HomeNorth price cap for Katherine has been lifted to $225,000 from $180,000 giving people a greater selection of homes.

“Income limits have been increased significantly to make HomeNorth accessible to more Territory families.”

SAFER STREETS

The Katherine region will receive $18.6 million for police, fire and emergency services.

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

“The $9.3 million two year Safer Streets plan will deliver 60 extra police to target crime and anti social behaviour and this will mean more patrols and resources for urban areas.”
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

“The Henderson Government is investing in the future of the Territory with a record $870 million cash infrastructure budget,” Ms Lawrie said.

Some of the Katherine region infrastructure highlights in Budget 2008 include:

- $5 million for education facilities in Borroloola.
- $2.6 million for power and sewerage works in Borroloola.
- $2 million for electricity infrastructure in Katherine.
- $2 million for expand the Katherine waste water plant.
- $2 million to improve the water supply at Mataranka.
- $1.3 million for a new sobering up shelter in Katherine.

ROADS

Budget 2008 delivers a record roads budget of $271 million with $71 million for repairs and maintenance.

Some of the Katherine region’s road spending includes:

- $35.8 million for the Victoria Highway including new bridges.
- $8.3 million for road repairs and maintenance in the Katherine region.
- $6.3 million for repairs and upgrades to the Stuart, Victoria, Buntine, Central Arnhem and Buchanan Highway.

HEALTH

Budget 2008 delivers a record health budget of $915,000, an 89% increase since 2001. Katherine Hospital will receive $26.3 million to deliver better health services to people in the region.

BUSINESS

“Budget 2008 will ensure the Northern Territory remains the lowest taxing jurisdiction for small and medium sized business in Australia,” Ms Lawrie said.

Business with up to 100 staff pay the lowest recurrent taxes in Australia and the Territory will have the highest tax-free payroll threshold at $1.25 million, a lower rate of payroll tax and no land tax or fire and emergency services levies.
TOURISM

Budget 2008 supports tourism development in the Katherine region with $160,000 for tourism marketing and industry improvement, and $100,000 for a local tourism industry development officer.

“Budget 2008 is investing in the future of the Katherine region and passing on the benefits of a strong economy to families across the Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

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