Budget 2009 - Record Funding Boost To Territory Roads

Northern Territory Government is delivering a record $322 million roads package as part of unprecedented $1.3 billion infrastructure investment in Budget 2009.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie today said the record $322 million roads package – up $51 million or 19 per cent on 2008 – would create jobs, build more roads and make roads safer throughout the territory.

Territory jobs and building the Territory is at the core of Budget 2009 and boosting funding will contribute to the creation of 2500 jobs across the construction sector.

Get 2009 delivers $322 million for roads – a four fold increase on the roads budget since 2008 and a 19 per cent or $51 million increase on last year - to improve roads right across the territory.

Infrastructure spending will create jobs during construction, open up the Territory for economic investment and efficiency, and that means more jobs in our pastoral, mining and tourism sectors.

The Territory Government continues to work with the Commonwealth on many road structure projects including the $110 million Tiger Brennan Drive extension.

After this project, Budget 2009 will continue the $89 million 7.5km extension and deliver costment funding for the $11 million Berrimah Road Rail Overpass project.

Territory Government is also delivering initiatives to improve traffic flow on the existing Tiger Brennan Drive in Budget 2009, including:

- $6 million for road duplication from Dinah Beach Road to Woolner Road; and
- $2 million for passing lanes between Berrimah Road and Woolner Road.

Commitments to other road projects include:

- Increasing the repairs and maintenance budget by $6 million to $77 million;
Joint Northern and Commonwealth funding of $19 million for community, beef and mining roads, including the Buntine, Plenty and Tanami highways, Maryvale Road and Wollogorang road bridge over the McArthur River; $5 million for overtaking lanes on the Stuart Highway between Darwin and Katherine; $5 million for road safety initiatives on the Stuart, Barkly and Victoria highways; and $2.2 million for level crossing upgrades.

Ms Lawrie said Budget 2009 will deliver an extra $3.9 million to our roads infrastructure and public transport budget through the cessation of the 1.1c per litre fuel subsidy.

"Parry Report indicated that Territory fuel prices were driven by the low volume of fuel sold lack of vigorous competition," Ms Lawrie said.

"Economic market conditions raised valid questions as to whether the subsidy is actually being passed on to consumers, particularly in regional areas.

"We are aware that South Australia and Victoria abolished similar subsidies and this resulted in no noticeable impact on ailing fuel prices in these states and we have decided Territorians are better served by allocating these funds to the substantially increased roads and public transport budget."

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