Growing the Territory: $32M for Central Region Roads

Key regional roads in the Centre will continue to be upgraded and sealed in Budget 2010 to improve road access for Territorians living and working in remote communities,

Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy and Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today announced funding of $31.9 million for roads across the region in the upcoming Budget 2010.

“Improving transport between remote communities in the Centre is a key priority of the Territory Government to support a working future and grow the Territory initiatives,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Budget 2010 delivers $2 million to seal around 7 kilometres on the Sandover Highway, across a section that links the community, Alparra Store, the airstrip and health clinic.”

Mr Hampton said this is a significant investment to improve access into the community generally and for transporting patients between the health clinic and airstrip.

“A further $2 million will be invested to continue progressive sealing of the Tanami Highway, a key transport route for the mining and cattle industries and link to a number of communities,” Mr Hampton said.

“This investment builds on $12 million already allocated in previous years that on completion of the current contracts will seal about 25 kilometres on the Tanami as part of joint Australian and Territory Government funding under the Community, Beef and Mining Road program.

“This $2 million investment will seal a further 4 kilometres, helping to improve road safety, and contributing to reductions in road closures, weight restrictions and maintenance costs, particularly for heavy vehicle operators.

“In addition, design works to complete the seal of the inner loop of the Red Centre Way will commence in Budget 2010.

“We are also committing about $21.7 million towards maintenance and minor upgrades on key roads including the Stuart, Plenty and Lasseter Highways, Larapinta Drive and Namatjira Drive.

Mr McCarthy said the Territory Government is improving the road network to provide better access for remote and regional communities by keeping roads open for longer during the wet season and improving road safety.

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