4 May 2010

$1.8B Infrastructure Investment Delivering Territory Jobs Now

The Henderson Government will deliver the biggest ever infrastructure program in the Territory’s history.

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, and the Minister for Construction, Gerry McCarthy, said the record $1.8 billion investment would secure 3600 Territory jobs.

“The effects of the global economic downturn are still being felt in the Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Levels of private sector investment are still well below those before the economic downturn which is why it is too early for the Government to pull back on our investment in infrastructure.

“Our decision to invest a record $1.3 billion infrastructure program in last year’s Budget to protect Territory jobs has proven to be the right one with the Territory recording the lowest unemployment in the nation for the past six months.

“The Henderson Government will continue its sound management of the economy.”

Mr McCarthy said the record $1.8 billion program would deliver new classrooms, better hospitals and more housing options for Territorians.

“The projects are an investment in the Territory’s future as well as delivering for Territory families now,” Mr McCarthy said.

MORE HOUSING OPTIONS

Budget 2010 delivers a record $948 million infrastructure program to support housing with more public housing, government employee housing and remote housing.

Budget 2010 delivers:

• $20 million to fast-track headworks at new the Palmerston East suburb of Zuccoli that will deliver up to 550 new homes
- $10 million to fast-track the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) site for residential housing in Alice Springs
- $1.95 million for planning works for the new town of Weddell
- $900,000 for 54 fully serviced residential lots in Tennant Creek.

Budget 2010 will deliver the Henderson Government’s single biggest boost to public housing with $49 million to deliver 150 new homes, including three new seniors villages at Larapinta, Johnston and Malak.

This is on top of the 186 new public housing dwellings being delivered across the Territory under the Australian government’s $60 million Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

Budget 2010 continues the Territory and Australian governments’ record of a $1.76 billion investment in remote housing over the next ten years, delivering:

- $354 million as part of the $672 million Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program to deliver 750 new houses, 230 rebuilds and 2,500 refurbishments over five years, jointly funded by the Territory and Australian governments; and
- $28 million to construct 34 new and upgrade 60 existing government employee houses in remote areas, with the Commonwealth Government contributing $7.8 million for additional teacher housing.

BEETTER SCHOOLS

Budget 2010 provides $213 million to build better schools including:

- $6.8 million to upgrade the Acacia, Henbury and Nemarluk special schools
- $6.4 million to upgrade Alice Springs Middle School at Gillen and establish a Youth Hub at Anzac Hill
- $5 million to upgrade Casuarina Senior College
- $2 million for Homeland Learning Centres as part of Working Future
- $1 million to upgrade Sanderson Middle School.

Budget 2010 also continues the $246 million four-year Territory Government initiative to upgrade every school over four years, with $6.3 million to upgrade 21 schools.

As part of Working Future, $5 million is provided to upgrade schools at Elliot, Ntaria, Maningrida and Yirrkala.

While a further $2 million will upgrade homeland learning centres at Maningrida-Ji-Marda and Wudeja, Shepherdsong-(Galiwin’ku)-Mirrngatja, Gunbalanya-Mumeka, Yirrkala-Rurrangala and Biranybirany, and Utopia – Mulga Bore.
Works are continuing on the $54.5 million Rosebery Primary and Middle schools with completion for the 2011 school year.

**BETTER HOSPITALS**

Budget 2010 delivers a record $147.8 million to upgrade Territory hospitals with:

- $43.5 million for new emergency stand-by power generation facilities at Royal Darwin Hospital
- $19.6 million to upgrade the Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Department
- $4.4 million to continue additional secure care facilities in Alice Springs and Royal Darwin Hospitals
- $3.8 million for Gove District Hospital staff accommodation
- $2.8 million to provide an extra eight dialysis stations in Katherine
- $1.7 million to expand renal facilities in Tennant Creek

**PROTECTING JOBS**

Budget 2010 delivers $11 million for the Government’s next generation jobs plan to help businesses develop the skilled workforces they need to grow in the future *Job NT 2010-12*.

*Jobs NT 2010-11* includes:

- $5.9 million over three years including an extension of the employer incentives for apprentices in industries experience skills shortages
- $6 million to upgrade the skills and qualifications of existing workers and job seekers in partnership with the Commonwealth

The Henderson Government is committed to making it easier to do business in the Territory including:

- $4.8 million to promote business and industry development and provide business with assistance in responding to changing economic conditions including through Territory Business Centres and the Territory Business Growth and Business Upskill programs
- $1.4 million to develop a one-stop online service for registration service for Territory businesses

Budget 2010 includes initiatives to develop Territory industry including:

- $15.3 million to boost mineral exploration including increased geophysical surveys
- $5.4 million to encourage major economic development project and promote Asian relations and trade development
$790,000 to support the pastoral industry to develop Indigenous pastoral enterprises with the live cattle overseas export market

BETTER POLICE AND CORRECTIONS

Budget 2010 delivers record spending for new and upgraded police stations, including $18.8 million to build police stations and officer accommodation at Arlparra and Imanpa, supporting Working Future.

Tennant Creek Police Station will be upgraded with $3.7 million, while design will begin on the new police station at Alice Springs in the Greatorex Building.

The Henderson Government is also continuing to deliver a new era in corrections by providing $5.1 million to build a new 50 bed Prisoner Work Camp at Tennant Creek, which will improve prisoner rehabilitation and break the cycle of crime.

BETTER ROADS

Budget 2010 continues the Henderson Government’s investment in improving Territory roads with $311 million, including $80 million for repairs and maintenance – a $3 million increase.

The Territory continues to work with the Australian Government to deliver the $110 million Tiger Brennan Drive project, as well as the $38 million National Roads Network program consisting of:

- $27 million for strengthening and widening, flood immunity and road safety improvements
- $6 million for a new high-level bridge over Cullen River
- $5 million for overtaking lanes between Darwin and Katherine

Budget 2010 delivers $24 million under the $85 million Community, Beef and Mining Road program with $10 million to upgrade the Port Keats Road and a further $14 million for the Central Arnhem Road.

The Territory Government is also funding:

- $3 million to duplicate Vanderlin Drive between Patterson Street and Mueller Road;
- $3 million to continue sealing Litchfield Road
- $2.5 million to continue sealing Fog Bay Road
- $2 million for the Sandover Highway
- $2 million to strengthen and widen the Arnhem Highway
- $2 million for the Douglas Daly Region Beef Roads
$1.2 million for the Jasper Creek bridge on the Buchanan Highway
$1 million to commence first-stage sealing works on Woolianna Road and Marrakai Station Access Road
Design works to upgrade the remaining sections of the inner loop of Red Centre Way.
In addition, Budget 2010 includes $20 million to seal the Umbakumba Road.

BETTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Budget 2010 delivers new and upgraded community infrastructure with:
- $6.2 million over three years to upgrade coastal barge landings
- $2.5 million each to upgrade Canteen Creek, Utopia and Yarralin airstrips, as part of Working Future
- $2 million to upgrade cyclone shelters
- Continuing works of $3.3 million to deliver Park and Ride bus facilities in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area, expand Humpty Doo interchange, and $1.3 million to continue upgrading bus stops in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs.

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