$7 million injection into improving the Arnhem Highway

The Arnhem Highway will receive a funding boost of more than $7 million in the upcoming 2011 Budget under the Territory Government’s growing the Territory initiative.

Minister for Lands and Planning Gerry McCarthy said the projects would include pavement and seal widening of sections, reconstruction and strengthening sections of pavement and widening of culverts.

“The Arnhem Highway is a vital road and the Territory Government will spend $5 million improving flood immunity, safety and traffic flow along the Highway over the next financial year,” Minister McCarthy said.

Member for Arafura Marion Scrymgour said “The Arnhem Highway is the transport corridor between Darwin and Jabiru and we have made it a priority in this Budget by allocating $5 million to upgrading sections most in need.

“The Government will also spend $2.2 million on repairs and maintenance along the highway including resealing, shoulder and drainage maintenance, pothole patching and minor pavement repairs.

“The Territory Government has responsibility for a 22,000 kilometre road network and the record rain this wet season has caused significant flood damage - repairing, upgrading and maintaining our road network is a massive
long term job, and we are throwing resources and funding at it to provide an accessible, safe road network.”

“Works in this Budget to strengthen and widen sections of the Arnhem Highway will improve access and driving conditions for the mining industry, the community and tourists by reducing the impact of heavy rain.

“On top of this, by investing in widening sections this upgrade will improve motorist safety.”

“The Territory Government is carrying out a planning study to determine exact locations and timings of these and future upgrades along the highway and to improve flood immunity at Adelaide River Floodplain,” Ms Scrymgour said.

Minister McCarthy said “This new $5 million investment is evidence of our ongoing commitment to improving and maintaining roads and follows on from the $2 million investment in Budget 2010 to widen and seal between Point Stuart Road and South Alligator. These works are underway and expected to be completed in the middle of the year.

“Road crews have been working around the clock carrying out pothole, road edge, road shoulder and bridge repairs in response to the record rain and that will be ongoing,” Mr McCarthy added.

For more information go to www.growingnt.nt.gov.au

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