$1.6 million Budget injection into improving Barkly roads

More than $1.6 million is being invested to improving roads in the Barkly region in the Territory Government's 2011 Budget, Minister for Construction and Member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy announced today.

“The Henderson Government is investing in growing the Territory and providing infrastructure to support our Territory growth towns,” Mr McCarthy said.

“We’re investing $1.6 million to upgrade four major roads in the Barkly region to provide improved flood access, safety, and traffic flow for Barkly road users.

“The 2011 Budget includes a $300,000 investment into widening and sealing sections of the Tablelands Highway to create a new two-lane passing opportunity for overtaking vehicles.

“On top of this, we’re investing $270,000 into upgrading Wollogorang Road to provide better access during the wet.”

The 2011 Budget includes:

- $300,000 investment into the Tablelands Highway at Barkly to create a two-lane passing opportunity and increase traffic flow.
- $160,000 investment into Stuart Highway and $160,000 into Barkly Highway to widen existing narrow culverts and improve safety.
- $270,000 investment into Wollogorang Road to stabilise and seal floodways at various locations to provide better access during flooding.
“This is in addition to continuing works of $724,000 to upgrade the Sandover Highway and seal 7
kilometres to the Urapuntja Health Centre turn-off,” Minister McCarthy said.

“The $1.6 million investment into the Barkly region is part of the Territory Government’s $307 million
Territory wide commitment to improve roads, the vast majority of which will be rural and regional areas to
provide better safer roads for all users.”

Other projects to be delivered across the Territory with funding support from the Commonwealth in 2011-12
include:

- $5.6 million to continue the Black Spot program and ongoing delivery of the Roads to Recovery
  program to improve local roads.
- $3 million investment into continued pavement strengthening and widening on sections of the
  Territory’s rural arterial road network, secondary roads and local roads.
- $23 million investment into upgrading sections of the national network, including construction of
  road safety infrastructure, flood immunity improvements and strengthening and widening.

Minister for Construction Gerry McCarthy said the record wet season had placed pressure on Territory
roads.

“The Territory Government has responsibility for a 22,000 kilometre road network and the record rain this
wet season has caused significant flood damage,” Mr McCarthy said.

“We have a big repair job ahead of us - there are now 23 crews of 6 working around the clock to patch up
the road where there is damage and we have heavy machinery on standby ready to bring in once water
has subsided.”

“Repairing, upgrading and maintaining our road network is a massive long term job, and we will continue to
put the resources and funding in to provide an accessible, safe road network. That is why we have injected
a further $14 million into the Territory Roads repairs and maintenance Budget for a total of $74 million in
2011-12 to assist in repairing flood damaged roads across the Territory.”

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