$30 million Budget injection into improving East Arnhem roads

More than $30 million is being invested into upgrading East Arnhem roads in the Territory Government’s 2011 Budget, the Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker announced today.

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

“We’re investing $250,000 into improving safety and traffic flow along the Central Arnhem Road by providing new pull off areas for heavy vehicles.

“By creating new truck pull off areas where slower vehicles can overtake we are improving traffic flow and safety for all traffic users.

“On top of this we’re investing $200,000 into improved drainage along the Central Arnhem Road including work at Rocky Bottom Creek to help improve access to this important link during the wet.
“This more than $30 million investment into the East Arnhem region is part of the Territory Government’s $307 million Territory wide commitment into improving roads, the vast majority of which will be in rural and regional areas,” Ms Walker said.

The investment follows $30 million in continuing works to seal the Umbakumba Road from Umbakumba to Angurugu on Groote Eylandt to improve access and flood immunity and upgrade the Mainoru Bridge along the Central Arnhem Road. The Umbakumba Road contract has been awarded and work is due to begin in the coming weeks with work already commenced on the Mainoru Bridge.

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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