2012 Budget investing in an affordable Great Territory Lifestyle

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said Budget 2012 supports our great Territory lifestyle with $81m delivering more funding for major events, recreation facilities, parks, the arts, fishing and sport.

“Our lifestyle is second to none and this Budget investment will ensure the Territory remains a great place to live, work and raise a family,” Mr Henderson said.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Karl Hampton said funding includes a range of grant programs to support Territorians playing sport and enhancing our excellent facilities, making sport more affordable for families.

“Budget 2012 invests in Territory 2030, our strategic plan for our future which aims to provide Territorians access to a wide range of facilities and activities that enhance our great Territory lifestyle,” Mr Hampton said.

Supporting Territory Sport:

- $9.4 million in grants to sporting organisations and remote community sport and recreation programs, including:
  - $1 million for community sport and recreation;
  - $0.2 million to support NT Thunder; and
  - $50 000 for the Boxing Youth Diversionary Program.
- $2.5 million contribution to establish the Michael Long NT Thunder Learning and Leadership Centre, pending confirmation of funding from the Commonwealth.

Variety of Major Events:

$9.7 million to support major sporting and entertainment events including:

- $1.45 million for the V8 Supercars Championships, including the Race and Rock Concert;
- $1.5 million to bring AFL matches to the Territory, as part of a four-year $5.6 million agreement;
- $0.68 million for hosting the Australian Super Bikes at Hidden Valley;
- $0.46 million for ‘BASSINTHEGRASS’ and the Alice Springs music event ‘THE CONCERT’;
- $0.3 million to stage pre-season Brumbies trial matches, as part of a three-year $0.9 million agreement;
- $1.06 million to host the 2012 Alice Springs Masters Games;
$0.2 million, four-year commitment for the 2013 Imparja Cup cricket tournament in Alice Springs;
$0.1 million for the Hottest 7s Rugby Tournament; and
$2.8 million to stage the 2013 Arafura Games.
The Territory Government continues to provide free public bus transport to and from many of these events.

**Recreation Facilities:**

- $21.9 million grant funding to support the operation of the wave pool and Darwin Waterfront, Leanyer recreation park and the new Palmerston waterpark;
- $1 million to commence site works near the Coolalinga park and ride facility for the new 25 metre, eight-lane swimming pool and children’s wet play area; and
- $1.7 million to upgrade, construct and maintain new sporting and other infrastructure at Fred’s Pass Reserve, as part of the $2.3 million upgrade program.

This builds on the new sporting facilities completed in 2011-12 for rugby, soccer, netball, tennis and AFL in Palmerston.

**Fishing, the lure of the Territory:**

- $0.13 million to complete recreational fishing infrastructure including boat ramps, toilets and parking across the Territory; and
- $0.5 million for a fishing platform at Rapid Creek as part of the Green Heart of Darwin program.

Since 2001, the Territory Government has made it easier for families to go fishing across the Top End with 23 new and upgraded boat ramps across the Territory.

In addition, the Territory Government has improved key access roads including Fog Bay, Marrakai and Wooliana.

**Defence of Darwin Experience:**

Budget 2012 continues to support the operation of the new $10.1 million Defence of Darwin Experience which provides:

- Bombing of Darwin museum gallery with interactive exhibition space and multi-sensory theatre;
- a StoryShare video recording kiosk to allow visitor stories to be recorded and included as part of the Defence of Darwin Experience;
- smart phone application to provide people with a guided tour across nine important WWII heritage sites around Darwin; and
- display of iconic objects from the historic period.
 Territory Arts and Culture:

- $34.8 million for the scientific and cultural sectors, including:
  - $10.3 million for the Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory to attract touring artists and support various arts awards;
  - $7 million grant funding to promote growth of the creative arts and screen sector; and
  - $1 million for the Darwin Festival.

Active Territory Lifestyle and Territory Parks:

- $1.85 million to continue construction of the Wangi Visitor Centre facility, a central facility for management services including camp bookings, a kiosk and an outlet for the display and sale of Aboriginal artwork;
- $0.44 million to complete walking tracks, biking trails, an adventure playground and upgrades to picnic facilities at Howard Springs Nature Park;
- $1.4 million to upgrade Tomato Island campground including non-powered camping sites, a solar powered ablution block and barbeques, secure parking, waste dump, kiosk and manager’s residence;
- $1.8 million to upgrade camp grounds across the Territory including Litchfield National Park, Gregory National Park and Keep River National Park, completing a four year, $8m program to upgrade parks infrastructure; and
- $1 million grant provided to the Darwin City Council for the redevelopment of Nightcliff foreshore including:
  - extra playground equipment, fencing, seating and shade at Sunset Park;
  - shade structure, fencing and seating at the beachfront playground;
  - seating on Progress Drive;
  - dance floor, power, lighting and seating in the Seabreeze Festival area; and
  - upgrades to the Aralia Street tennis courts.

Media: Claire March  0403 937 849 (Henderson)
Gino Luglietti  0401 119 794 (Hampton)