Budget 2012 investing in Central Australia

The Henderson Government is continuing to invest in Central Australia with funding to key areas such as education, health, infrastructure, business support and community safety.

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton said funding including $147 million for Alice Springs Hospital as part of a record Health budget, $28 million for Central Australian roads, and a $10.36 million boost to Corrections services and infrastructure would support the region as the Territory gears up for growth.

“Budget 2012 supports growth across the Territory through significant investment in infrastructure and services,” Mr Hampton said.

“The $28 million roads spending includes $5 million to complete the sealing of Namatjira Drive, part of the Red Centre Way, and a further $2 million will continue the ongoing upgrading and sealing of the Tanami Road.

“We are continuing the $3.9 million redevelopment of the Greatorex Building for a new Alice Springs Police Station and $1 million will go towards upgrades at the Alice Springs Youth Hub.

“The record funding in health includes $231.32 million for acute care services in the Central Australian region.

“Ntaria will receive a new $6.4 million health centre, $1.75 million will be spent upgrading the health centre at Papunya and the health centres at Yuendumu, Alcoota and Pmara Jutunta will also receive upgrades.

“Work on the new Kilgariff residential subdivision will continue under Budget 2012, with $3.5 million in headworks continuing in 2012-13, on top of the $10 million in works expected to be completed at the site this year.”

Budget 2012 continues the Henderson Government’s commitment to breaking the cycle of crime.

“As part of the $10.36 million boost to corrections infrastructure and services, a new $5.78 million, 20-bed centre for driving offenders will be built that will offer driver rehabilitation training,” he said

A further $4.58M is provided for new infrastructure to support an addition 50 prisoners at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre.
Further Infrastructure highlights

- $4.67m to continue the relocation and upgrade of the Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Department;
- $5m for remediation and upgrades of operating theatres and wards at Alice Springs Hospital;
- $1.76m for school infrastructure upgrades;
- $900,000 for works at Acacia Hill School;
- $890,000 for solar power generation at Araluen Arts Centre;
- $2.5m to upgrade and seal the Utopia airstrip;
- $1.87m for a childcare centre at Ntaria;
- $1.1m for works at Walungurru School;
- $2.2m to secure water supplies at Ntaria.

Supporting Business

Budget 2012 continues the Henderson Government’s commitment to supporting business in the Centre as part of initiatives including:

- $21m for marketing and promotion of the Territory as a tourist destination;
- $1m to provide new generation geoscience data and promote investment;
- $680,000 for research into improved pastoral industry profitability and sustainability;
- $400,000 to continue the ecoBiz program to assist NT businesses to improve their energy efficiency;
- $750,000 to Tourism Central Australia for visitor information and marketing services;
- $360,000 for the Territory Business Centre to provide business advice and information;
- $600,000 to continue the Indigenous Pastoral Program with partner agencies;
- $150,000 to develop new technology to improve pastoral management efficiency.

Jobs and Training

- $15.49m for Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other providers to deliver qualifications to develop new skills or build on existing skills that lead to employment; and
- $1.1m to support training and development opportunities to support training and development opportunities for public sector employees in remote localities.
Better Schooling

- $138.96m across pre-school, primary, middle years and senior secondary sectors in Government and non-government schools;
- $2.86m for school buses and special needs transport for students;
- $1.92m for early childhood programs including Families as First Teachers;
- $2.75m for isolated student education through Alice Springs School of the Air and distance education; and
- $570,000 for back to school vouchers.

Safer Communities

- $47.39m to provide police, fire and emergency services in the Central Australia region including nine police stations, two fire stations and 12 volunteer groups;
- $36.05m for safe and secure adult custodial services at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre;
- $1.21m for sex offender treatment, indigenous family violence, Elders and Remote Communities programs;
- $3.57m for community based corrections;
- $230,000 for alcohol and other drug intervention programs for adult offenders; and
- $1.56M to run the Alice Springs Juvenile Detention Centre.

Community Development

- $18.1m for HOMESTART NT scheme to assist low to middle-income owners purchase a home;
- $9.9m to manage urban public housing services including tenancy support;
- $5.06m to continue the Alice Springs Transformation Plan to enhance social support services and measures to reduce homelessness;
- $800,000 to manage the Apmere Mwerre Visitor park
- $400,000 for the construction of an Alice Springs regional waste management facility; and
- $500,000 for the Intensive Support Tenancy Enabling Program to provide support to assist tenants transitioning from town camps into urban public housing.
Working Future

- $17.8m for Indigenous housing under the Remote Indigenous Housing Program;
- $2.2m for upgrades to water production capacity at Ntaria;
- $80,000 for pharmacy upgrades and fencing at the Yuendumu Health Centre;
- $6.4m for a new health centre at Ntaria;
- $1.87m for a childcare centre at Ntaria;
- $1.75m to upgrade the health centre at Papunya; and
- $2.5m for upgrading and sealing of the Utopia airstrip.

Health

- $231.32m for acute care services including patient travel and aero-retrieval transport;
- $84.47m for non-acute health and community services;
- An additional $10.7m towards the patient assistance travel scheme; and
- $11.4m towards the running of the Territory’s first secure care facilities in Alice Springs and Darwin.

Lifestyle and Environment

- $1.06m for the 2012 Alice Springs Masters Games;
- $5.85m for the Alice Springs Desert Park;
- $75,000 for the Finke Desert Race;
- $1m for the management of feral camels;
- $120,000 for water allocation plans; and
- $1.49M to bring AFL matches to the Territory.

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