$28 million Central Australian roads boost

Locals, freight companies and tourists are set to benefit from a $28 funding injection into Central Australian roads in Budget 2012, Minister for Lands and Planning Gerry McCarthy announced today.

“The Henderson Government is growing the Territory through this significant investment into our Central Australian road network,” he said.

“Not only will these works better the driving experience for our families, tourists and truckies, they will also provide jobs opportunities for locals and suppliers.

“As part of the Territory Government’s Territory 2030 strategy, the Government is continuing to grow the size and skills of the NT workforce, while maintaining high levels of investment in public infrastructure, to underpin long-term development and growth.”

Mr McCarthy said a $5 million injection would go toward upgrading and sealing 7kms of Namatjira Drive on the popular tourist route, the Red Centre Way.

“This will complete the sealing of the entire 157km length of Namatjira Drive, which will make the journey, for tourist buses and travellers in caravans, a lot smoother,” he said.

“The work is expected to start mid 2013 and be complete early 2014 with an estimated 50 people employed on the site throughout the construction of the project.

“A further $2 million will continue the ongoing upgrading and sealing of the Tanami Road under the Working Futures strategy to improve the lives of remote Territorians, through better access to communities in this instance.”

Mr McCarthy said the funds would facilitate the sealing and upgrading of 4kms of road, with more to come as the route from Alice Springs to the Kimberley is progressively sealed. He said about $21 million would also be spent on maintenance in the Central Australian region in the 2012 Budget

Other projects to be delivered across the Territory with funding support from the Commonwealth Government in 2012-2013 include:

- $16 million to continue national network strengthening, widening and flood immunity improvements across the Territory
• $11 million in construction of road safety infrastructure such as intersection improvements, truck parking bays and rest areas on the national highways as part of the National Network Infrastructure Road Safety initiative

• $5.6 million for the ongoing Roads to Recovery and Black Spot program

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