The Katherine region economy will be boosted by almost $15 million of capital works allocated in today’s Mini Budget.

Health and education facilities will be greatly improved with $5.9 million in Commonwealth funding allocated for a remote health clinic at Ngukurr. $1.8 million in Territory funding will be used for a new double classroom and early learning centre at Kintore Street School and a further $1.8 million for a new classroom block and amenities at Kalkarindji School.

Other projects include:
- $2.5 million to upgrade and seal the Yarralin airstrip
- $2 million to replace air-conditioning at the Katherine Police and Fire Station
- $800,000 to upgrade the Borroloola Health Clinic.

Treasurer Robyn Lambley said this capital works program will provide better facilities for health, education, police and fire fighters.

“These works will provide greater access to much needed services in the Katherine region. The flow on effect of the building activity will be felt by the whole economy as the works take place,” Mrs Lambley said.

The Country Liberals Government will deliver on its election commitment to protect parks and other family environments in Katherine. An additional $500,000 has been allocated in the Mini Budget to install closed circuit television (CCTV) systems in the town.

Mrs Lambley said the CCTV will be used to target trouble spots and help police identify offenders.

“An additional $1.796 million will be used to return police communications and monitor cameras in Katherine and Alice Springs,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Families have the right to feel safe in their own community. Installing and monitoring CCTV cameras will boost the crime prevention measures in the town.

“The Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct will continue to be supported with $500,000 allocated in both 2012-13 and 2013-14 and $250,000 in 2014-15.

“The Country Liberals govern for all Territorians; I am pleased to see Katherine getting its fair share.

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Savings of $300,000 in 2012-13 will be made in the Katherine Low Acuity Patient Transport Service by changing the way the service is provided to a more cost-effective model. Ongoing savings from 2013-14 will be $1.2 million, however access to the service will not reduce.

In Katherine the expansion of renal dialysis services will be delayed. Expanding the services would have cost $2.4 million in 2012-13 and in 2013-14.

Media Contact:
Camden Smith 0488 588 754