TERRY MILLS
MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A RENEWED FOCUS ON LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

December 4th, 2012

The Mills Government said the Mini Budget would provide a renewed focus on the important portfolio of Lands, Planning and the Environment.

Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Terry Mills, said his Government was looking to the future.

“Proper planning is of upmost importance to ensure the long-term future of the Northern Territory is secure,” Mr Mills said.

“However, in any planning decisions, the effect on the environment is paramount.

“The Territory’s natural beauty is one of our biggest drawcards, to attract tourists and for those who chose to live here, and it needs to be protected at all costs.

“The new NT Environment Protection Authority will ensure any future development in the Territory is undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner.”

Allocated in the Mini Budget is:

- $800,000 ongoing on an annual basis from 2012-13 to establish and operate the Planning Commission of the Northern Territory; and
- $500,000 ongoing on an annual basis from 2012-13 to establish an independent board for the new Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority.

“The Planning Commission will plan properly for the Territory’s future growth so that Territorians aren’t crippled by soaring house prices and rents,” Mr Mills said.

“The Commission will ensure our young people can afford to live here through the timely release of land, to increase the supply of affordable housing.”

In order to streamline the planning process and bring charges in line with other jurisdictions, Development Applications Charges will rise, resulting in $140,000 in increased annual revenue in 2012-13 and $280,000 ongoing 2013-14.

“Fee increases will be applied on a graduated scale, with application costs being increased more for larger development and less for smaller developments,” Mr Mills said.
“The new fee structure is designed to increase revenue in line with the scale of development, thereby minimising the impact of increased costs on families and small businesses.”

The new fees structure is expected to be implemented on January 1st, 2013, with details to be made available shortly on the Development One Stop Shop website at: http://www.lands.nt.gov.au/planning/onestopshop.

An annual subscription fee will also be introduced for major users of the Territory’s aerial imagery data, which will increase revenue by an estimated $200,000 a year from 2013-14.

The Mini Budget has also allocated an additional $750,000 in 2012-13 to further investigate flood mitigation measures in Rapid Creek.

“A preliminary report has recommended further investigations into floodwater levels, and potential impacts,” Mr Mills said.

“This information is required before an appropriate solution can be determined that will benefit the community.”

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