MINISTER WILLEM WESTRA VAN HOLTHE

PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

BUDGET DELIVERS FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

4 December 2012

There will be an overall increase of $1.084 million to the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries from the May Budget to today’s Mini Budget.

Included in the Mini Budget for Primary Industry:

- $400,000 to establish the Ord Development Unit.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Willem Westra van Holthe, has praised Treasurer Robyn Lambley for her investment in the Northern Territory’s future.

“We are focusing on the future and investing in the Territory as part of our 3 hub economy platform,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Our primary industries are critically important to the future of our economy.”

Also in the Mini Budget, specific to Fisheries is:

- $50,000 in 2012-13 and $20,000 ongoing for the Amateur Fishermen’s Association and the Seafood Council for more boat safety, awareness and education programs.
- $130,000 to undertake a comprehensive study of potential new areas able to support a new boat ramp at Shady Camp as well as suburban based boat ramps in 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- $220,000 ongoing from 2013-14 for the Fishery Recreational Development Plan.
- $30,000 ongoing from 2012-13 to establish and support the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee.
- $4.5 million earmarked in 2013-14 for fishing infrastructure in the Dundee area.
- Funding for the buy-back of commercial fishing licences to compensate for the closures of Finke Bay, Chambers Bay and other legacy closures.

“This is fantastic news for all fishermen,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Fishing is a major part of the Territory lifestyle; it requires careful management and government support.”

The Department will also be taking savings measures including; $191,000 in 2012-13 and $568,000 from 2013-14 in operational expenditure, $100,000 from reducing capital items and reducing grant programs of $200,000 in 2012-13 and $300,000 in 2013-14.

The Mini Budget will also see the Northern Territory join every other Australian jurisdiction and introduce a Biosecurity Services Fee; expected to generate $135,000 in 2012-13.

A review of the Department’s research facilities will be undertaken in the next 6 months to examine options for operational efficiencies.

“We must all tighten our belts,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Our Department is focused on the future; waste and mismanagement of the taxpayer’s dollar is unacceptable.”

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