The Country Liberals Government is investing in Palmerston as it grows and provides an appealing lifestyle to many Territory families.

"Budget 2013 is investing in the development of land for new homes, improvements to bus services, more public housing and major spending to add two lanes to the Tiger Brennan highway," Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“As the Territory economy grows there will be increasing demand for homes in communities offering the best of lifestyles, so we are supporting the development of land in and around Palmerston.

Member for Brennan Peter Chandler said an audit of government land throughout the Territory had identified numerous housing sites to ensure there is a supply of new housing to flow on to the market regularly.

“This was an essential measure as land supply had lagged under Delia’s former Labor government.

“The audit came up trumps and identified 22 sites with the potential for 500 dwellings in Palmerston.

“Territory-wide 70 sites with the potential for more than 2700 were earmarked.

“Budget 2013 is also accelerating land release for the Zuccoli development by putting additional funds into the headworks – for roading, sewerage works, power and water.

“The funds will advance the construction of more than 900 homes for Zuccoli.

“The Territory Government is acting responsibly to ease the pressure on the housing market, both for rentals and new homes, by making more land available and increasing the supply of houses to the market.

“This will stabilise prices and make homes more affordable for the Territorian workers who have been waving goodbye because of an over-priced housing market.”

The Territory Government will also be contributing towards the building of public housing in Bellamack and Zuccoli for people on lower incomes. The total cost of the project is $9.44 million. This is a combined Territory and Commonwealth government project.
Mr Chandler said Budget 2013 was setting aside $16 million towards the cost of adding two more lands to Tiger Brennan Drive.

“As many residents in Palmerston travel to work each day in Palmerston a trouble-free run without congestion is important.

“With two lanes both ways between Berrimah and the city safety will improve, travelling times will be reduced and Palmerston motorists will be happier motorists.

“The Territory’s total contribution will be $33 million as part of the $103 million Territory and Commonwealth-funded project.”

Mr Chandler said Budget 2013 is also addressing bus travel and the need to connect newer suburbs. New public bus services will support Rosebery, Bellamack and Zuccoli residents.

“This is part of new bus service expenditure of $1.4 million.”

The Territory Government would also invest $1 million in a new ticketing and data collection system and $110,000 for ongoing free wi-fi services in buses and interchanges, including the Palmerston bus interchange. Wi-fi would be rolled out on an expanding network of buses in the Greater Darwin area.

“Palmerston’s Woodroffe Primary School would gain two new special education classrooms and the Pandanus Centre would be extended by the provision of $2 million in Budget 2013,” Mr Chandler said.

The Government would assist in operational funding for the Palmerston Water Park with $2.3 million in Budget 2013.

$200,000 will also be spend on constructing new and much needed shade shelters at the Palmerston Water Park to keep children safe from the sun.

Mr Chandler said $150,000 would be invested in child safety barriers and shade structures over the new pools at Howard Springs Nature Park.
Budget 2013 highlights

Palmerston residents will benefit from spending right across the board in Budget 2013, Mr Chandler said.

Health and Wellbeing

Total Budget 2013 allocation of $1.36 billion to address the Territory’s health needs

The new Top End Health and Hospital Services, created as part of significant health reforms, has a budget of $575 million.

$48.16m is allocated to meet increased demand and cost pressures on health and hospital services

$6.5m for enhanced cardiac outreach services and rehabilitations service and the start of low-risk angioplasty services

$7.7m for the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme

$4.46m for an additional 400 elective surgeries per annum

$300,000 for the refurbishment of old birthing rooms and operating theatres at Royal Darwin Hospital

$500,000 for the construction of car parks at Royal Darwin Hospital

$22.54m for the Pensioner and Carers Concession Scheme in subsidies to assist seniors, pensioners and carers in meeting costs such as electricity, water and sewerage charges and local government rates

Education

$6.6m for the doubling of the Back to School payments to $150 per student to assist families with expenses as school begins

$150,000 for the Child Care Toy Fund for toys and equipments to day care providers

$43.2m for repairs and maintenance to schools across the Territory

$11.4m for minor new works in 22 schools

$93.56m in Territory and Commonwealth funding for Charles Darwin University and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other providers

$3m to continue upskilling Territory workers, $2.9m for the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Support package
Lifestyle

$300,000 to implement a Recreational fishing Development Plan

$20,000 to support the Amateur Fishermen’s Association

$5.3m for the resurfacing of the track circuit and upgrading of concrete barriers at Hidden Valley Motor Sports complex

$8.22m to support major sporting and entertainment events includes
  - $380,000 for BASSINTHEGRASS
  - $500,000 for the Australian Superbike and Supercross championships at Hidden Valley
  - $1.32m to bring AFL matches to the Territory

$9.6 million in grants to peak sport and recreation bodies and sporting programs including
$200,000 to support NT Thunder football club

$4m for the Sport Voucher scheme to encourage all young Territorians into organised sport while making sport more affordable for families

$2.3 million for ongoing operation of Palmerston Water Park

$200,000 for new shade shelters at Palmerston Water Park

Community Safety

Budget 2013 delivers $22.5 million to increase frontline police services across the Territory.

$11.35m for repairs and maintenance of police, fire and emergency services facilities

$5.39m for the commissioning of the new Darwin Correctional Precinct

$2m for early intervention programs and residential boot camps for youth offenders

Transport

Budget 2013 delivers $287m for Territory roads and highways, including $95m for repairs and maintenance.

This includes:

$6.5m to continue construction of new overtaking opportunities on the Stuart Highway

$55.2m for strengthening and widening, flood immunity and safety improvements
Business

Budget 2013 delivers $106 million to support the development of the Territory’s workforce to better respond to industry requirements.

$1m to support business growth by providing professional advice

$500,000 to assist businesses develop export opportunities

$400,000 to assist tourism operators to improve their operations

$140,000 to help childcare centres develop their management, governance and planning skills

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