MEDIA RELEASE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAILS TERRITORIANS YET AGAIN

29 May 2013

The Federal Government has failed Territorians by slashing $230 million from the Northern Territory roads budget.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said this is yet another example of how Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Federal Labor member Warren Snowdon have rorted Territorians.

“That money was for upgrading bush and regional roads so all Territorians could enjoy a safe and reliable road network Territory wide,” Mr Giles said.

“Without that $230 million there will be no flood immunity projects, no new over taking lanes, no new rest areas or truck parking bays and no road strengthening works on the National Highway network.

“On top of that, the much anticipated Federal funding portion for the Tiger Brennan Drive duplication project won’t be available for another three financial years. The NT relies on road infrastructure funding from the Australian Government to help grow the Territory.

“This decision by the Australian Government has delivered a cruel blow to the civil construction industry that employs thousands of Territorians dependent upon road infrastructure project work.

“This decision has the potential to hinder the civil construction industry through a lack of expected jobs growth.

“The Australian Government is failing to plan for the future, has failed to support the construction industry and is continuing to fail to support the growth of the Northern Territory.

The funding has dropped from $474 million for the five years from 2008/09-2013/14 to almost half this amount to $244 million.

For the Australian network roads this decision means:

- No $125 million for strengthening and widening of National Highway Network
- No $60 million for duplicating Berrimah Road from Export Drive to the port, which would cater for growth at the port and provide better access for heavy vehicles
- No $80 million for flood immunity for the Big Horse, Little Horse, Saddle, Mathieson and Sandy Creeks on the Victoria River Highway which would give improved year-round access for locals, tourists and the transport industry and would also link in with developing the Ord.
- No $70 million for safety and fatigue management including truck parking bays, intersection improvements, safety treatments, strengthening the Katherine River Bridge, upgrading the Stuart Highway from Dixon to the MVR in Alice Springs.

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For NT Government roads this means:

- No $32 million for Port Keats Road – sealing along selected sections and flood immunity for Moyle Rover Floodplain
- No $40 million for continued sealing of the Tanami
- No $80 million for sealing local roads around growth towns – Gapuwiyak ($20 million) and Ramingining Barge Landing Roads ($25 million); seal the road from Ali Curung to the Stuart Highway ($10 million); $25m Kintore Road from Papunya Town to Derwent River Crossing ($25 million) and upgrading Galiwinku Highway from Galiwinku to Gawa to high gravel standard ($20 million)
- No $40 million to extend seal on the Outback Way towards Harts Range and selective upgrades of the Tjukaruru (Docker River) Road
- No $10 million to commence sealing of the Buntine Highway to Lajamanu
- No $15 million to upgrade and seal selected sections of the Sandover Highway
- No $30 million to upgrade and seal major roads on the Tiwi Islands

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