The great Territory lifestyle will benefit from Budget 2014, with $110 million to support more major sporting events, sport and recreational facilities and artistic events across the Territory.

Treasurer, Dave Tollner, said the government was supporting more national sporting fixtures in the Territory and assisting parents with the cost of their children’s sporting and recreational activities.

“Territorians love their sport and this Budget delivers more high quality sporting events than ever before. It also delivers better sporting facilities to host major events and will help grow our sports at the grassroots level,” he said.

“It’s the Government’s aim to ensure Territorians can enjoy going to a match of all our major sporting codes throughout the year. This Budget will bring the A-League, the NRL, international cricket and the AFL to the Territory.”

Budget 2014 provides further assistance to major sporting events through:

- $2.187 million for the V8 Supercars Championship, including the Race and Rock Concert;
- $1 million to Parramatta Eels to hold an NRL premiership game in Darwin and pre-season game in Alice Springs;
- $1 million to bring Australian Football League matches to the Territory;
- $0.15 million to support A-League side Adelaide United hosting pre-season games in Alice Springs; and
- $0.058 million for the Tattersall’s Finke Desert Race.

Support continues for Territory teams to play in interstate competitions, including $200,000 for the Territory Thunder to play in the North East Australian Football League and $50 000 to the NT Strike cricket team to play in the South Australian Premier League.

More financial assistance is provided to families to help with the cost of organised sport and recreational activities, with a $5 million boost to the Government’s successful Sports Voucher scheme.

As well as increasing the annual voucher from $75 to $200 per child per year, Budget 2014 expands the range of activities that the voucher can be used for. Recreational activities like girl guides and scouts, dance, music lessons and other arts and cultural pursuits will all be included so children who don’t play traditional sports don’t miss out.

The expanded scheme also allows vouchers to be used for learn to swim lessons for toddlers aged 0-5 years not enrolled in school who have completed the Government’s Under 5 Water Safety Awareness Program.
“The Sports Vouchers have been hugely popular with Territorians with more than 20,000 children redeeming them last year,” said Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan.

“We know healthy minds are just as important as healthy bodies and our new scheme will get more Territory kids off the couch, off the streets and into organised activities.

“The Country Liberals are serious about driving down the cost of living and our new $200 Sport Voucher Scheme will make our great lifestyle more affordable for families.

“It’s also great news for our hard working sport and recreation clubs which benefit from the guaranteed cash injection and increased participation numbers that flow from the vouchers.”

Sport and recreation organisations, including grass roots clubs also benefits from the Budget, with $19.671 million in grants to sport and recreation organisations and programs, including $5.6 million ongoing funding for grants to Peak Sporting Bodies and Active Recreation organisations.

$50,000 will be provided for stage 1 upgrades to Northline Oval in Palmerston to develop it into a multi-use facility capable of hosting international cricket matches. This is on top of $163,000 in 2013-14 to allow the ground to be included in the International ‘A’ Series in July 2014.

A further $2.38 million will be spent on repairs and maintenance to sporting facilities across the Territory.

Fishing on the revered Mary River will benefit from $2.5 million to upgrade two barrages this year to prevent salt water intrusion. The barrages will be constructed from rock to help them stand the test of time.

The sustainable management of the Territory’s aquatic resource will receive $2.5 million, with a further $560,000 directed to management of the Territory’s recreational fishing sector.

The Giles Government’s commitment to the arts and culture continues with $375,000 for BASSINTHEGRASS.

More than $1 million is provided for new arts facilities and exhibitions, including:

- $0.4 million for a new café at the Araluen Cultural Precinct;
- $0.1 million for upgrades to the Cyclone Tracy exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT to allow the inclusion of digital content to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the event; and
- $0.135 million for a new whale marine life exhibit at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT.
- A total of $44.9 million will go to protecting the Territory’s premier arts and cultural institutions and $6.489 million will be distributed to community arts and cultural infrastructure, organisations, festivals and events through the NT Arts Grants Program.

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