Australia’s Transport Ministers will converge on Alice Springs next week for the first Remote and Regional Transport Infrastructure and Services Forum.

“It is great to see regional infrastructure taking centre-stage in the national debate about the country’s transport needs,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“We want to drive the development of Northern Australia but the Territory’s infrastructure lags 150 years behind the rest of the nation. A strategic infrastructure investment plan is needed if we are to turn this around.

“Better road, air, rail and port links are the key to improving productivity and unlocking the economic potential of this vast region.

“The economic future of the Territory, and indeed the nation, depends on our willingness to make the important decisions and facilitate an environment which promotes growth and investment in the North.”

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Peter Styles said it was anticipated the outcomes from this Forum would form the basis of a National Remote and Regional Transport Strategy which will play an important role in contributing to the development of Northern Australia.

“With more than 100 industry representatives from across Australia attending this forum, it will offer a fantastic opportunity for ministers involved in infrastructure and transport to agree on strategies that address the transport issues of remote and regional Australia,” Mr Styles said.

“Our Government’s biggest ever contribution of more than $200 million for road infrastructure demonstrates our commitment to boosting economic growth, attracting investment and creating jobs in our regions.

“We have committed $1.14 billion for key infrastructure to continue building the Territory’s strong future.

“This includes $135.5 million to accelerate land release and $377.8 million to upgrade Territory roads and national highways to connect all Territorians.

“In this week’s Federal Budget, the Commonwealth supplemented this with a welcome additional spend of $77 million on improving the Territory’s National Road Network.

“We are proud to be working in partnership with the Australian Government to deliver development opportunities for Northern Australia, securing our children’s future.”

Industry representatives, community groups and departmental officials as well as state, Territory and Federal Ministers will attend the Forum on Thursday 22 May.
The Forum will cover all transport modes and will focus on discussing the challenges and opportunities across the key priority areas of infrastructure, services and regulation.

Media opportunities will be available after the Forum and at the Transport and Infrastructure Ministerial Council meeting the following day.

To register your interest in attending or covering the Forum please contact Lesley Major on 8924 7287 or via email lesley.major@nt.gov.au

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