Budget 2015 is an investment in the future of Central Australia with strong infrastructure spending to unlock the full potential of the region.

"This budget sets the foundation for Central Australia to grow and prosper with significant investment in economic and community infrastructure projects that create jobs and make Central Australia an even better place to live," Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

"Unlike the former Labor Government which neglected Central Australia for more than a decade, this Budget demonstrates the Country Liberals’ commitment to rebuilding and growing this important regional economy."

The local economy is already showing positive signs of recovery with renewed confidence in town. This is being driven by a raft of major projects already underway including the new Supreme Court, the refurbishment of the Greatorex building, the development of Kilgariff, the South Terrace townhouse project, the redevelopment of the Melanka site, the Chandler salt mine and Virgin Airlines flying into Alice Springs.

"This budget will build on that momentum and help take the Central Australia to the next level with better roads, improved early child care and health facilities, expanded tourism infrastructure and upgrades to key sporting facilities," Mr Giles said.

"We know that in the years ahead, the Central Australian economy will tilt towards tourism as a key driver and we are preparing for that shift now by investing in the products and infrastructure the industry needs."

Budget 2015 delivers a $25 million project to complete the final 43 kilometre seal of the Mereenie Inner Loop between Hermannsburg and Glen Helen over two years. Tourism NT estimates an annual economic benefit from sealing this road of $16.25 million, as visitors stay longer and spend more.

Budget 2015 includes $9.53 million for new early childhood facilities in Alice Springs including $5.5 million to build a Child and Family Centre at Larapinta Primary School and $4.03 million for a new pre-school facility at Braitling Primary School.

"This is fantastic news for Alice Springs families, boosting the child care options available for busy local parents and increasing the support available for their children’s development. School safety is
also important and the Budget includes $1.5 million to construct a new off-street school bus interchange,” Mr Giles said.

“I have also decided to establish a new Office of Aboriginal Affairs to better coordinate Indigenous policy across the Territory. This office will be led from Alice Springs, with a particular focus on economic development and job creation in remote and regional areas.”

Budget 2015 allocates $1.75 million a year ongoing for this new Office which will also have a strong community engagement role. A further $4 million over two years has been provided for an Indigenous Economic Development Support Program.

"A $7.5 million roads project will improve flood immunity in Alice Springs, giving Mt John Valley residents all-weather access to this residential area. Options to provide this access will be investigated including the connection of Sadadeen Road," Mr Giles said.

There’s also a strong investment in health in Central Australia with almost $400 million allocated to the delivery of health services and infrastructure upgrades across the region. This includes $34.2 million of remediation works and other upgrades at the Alice Springs Hospital.

“The Government’s commitment to community safety and alcohol reform continues with $7.9 million for a secure alcohol management assessment centre. This will continue our ground breaking alcohol mandatory treatment program, complementing our successful Temporary Beat Locations which have seen alcohol-related assaults drop 32 per cent in Alice Springs,” Mr Giles said.

A range of Central Australian sporting organisations have received a boost as part of the Budget.

“In response to calls from the large local netball community, the Member for Greatorex, Matt Conlan and I, lobbied our colleagues for investment in local netball infrastructure. I’m pleased to say that this growing sport will receive $2 million to upgrade their facilities. Athletics has also received $2 million for a new track and field facility,” Mr Giles said.

“Motorsport in Central Australia and the Barkly will be zooming ahead with $4.45 million allocated for events and infrastructure upgrades at key facilities across the region in Budget 2015. This includes $1 million for the inaugural Red CentreNATS in September - a brand new motorsports event for Alice Springs.”

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