INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENABLE GROWTH

Building a Stronger Territory
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Introduction

This position paper is designed to outline a general infrastructure strategy that Labor will undertake in Government. It is not a paper that outlines everything Labor will spend infrastructure funding on. For example infrastructure upgrades in health, education and other areas will be announced in those policy packages.

Labor believes that the Government must invest in infrastructure to support the construction industry, grow jobs and expand the economy.

Labor has a history of building the Territory. If elected to Government we will invest again in improving and expanding infrastructure over the course of our Government.

A Labor Government infrastructure program will be focussed on:

- Leveraging the natural resources and other advantages of the Territory to enable economic growth
- Underpinning social development of the community

Labor will ensure that the infrastructure program is spread across the Territory. Labor will also ensure that it is released in a way that supports local industry.

Successfully leveraging our natural assets and advantages will act to grow the Territory and will retain and attract people to live in the Territory. This is a critical element of growing our community.

Too often infrastructure spending focussed on large major projects. These are important but the opportunity also exists to use infrastructure funds for small local projects that can generate local jobs and skills training. Labor will utilise infrastructure funds to generate training and jobs in particular in remote communities and regional towns.

Labor will also ensure that infrastructure expenditure is efficient and focussed on the right projects. This is why Labor is emphasising the need to develop a clear Territory economic development plan through the Northern Territory Jobs Plan.

With this plan in place Labor can properly direct infrastructure investment.

Labor supports private investment in Territory infrastructure. We recognise that for this to occur the private sector needs to have the risk of that investment minimised. A Territory wide economic plan with clear defined goals helps minimise risk and will act to attract greater levels of private sector investment in Territory infrastructure needs. Labor will work with the private sector to facilitate this investment.

Territory Labor does not support asset sales. We would not have sold TIO or the Darwin Port. The focus of the Labor Government will be on ensuring that the funds raised from those sales are re-invested in the Territory in infrastructure that creates jobs and opportunities for Territorians.
Our Policy Framework

Labor will:

**Infrastructure Spending with a mix of differently sized projects**

Labor will continue the high level of infrastructure funding in the budget that it began in Government in 2001.

The Government infrastructure budget will contain a mix of projects. There will be middle level projects in the $50 million to $100 million level as well as smaller construction projects, packages and repairs and maintenance to support smaller local business.

**Implement a 10 year infrastructure plan for the Territory**

On taking Government Labor will articulate a clear rolling 10 year infrastructure plan that provides business with information on future infrastructure projects. Labor understands that the further out the infrastructure plan is the less clear it can be but commitments to likely larger projects and consistent expenditure on areas such as housing and roads will assist industry to understand likely expenditure levels and prepare for Government contracts.

Labor values transparency and believes this initiative would provide industry an understanding of where, when and the value of infrastructure construction across the Territory. This rolling program will also ensure that business can plan and leverage off proposed Government infrastructure programs to develop further opportunities and create more jobs.

**Public Schedule to Infrastructure Program**

Labor has a strong commitment to transparency. Labor will create a public database that will publish updates on capital works projects and the stage they are at.

**Support the Territory Infrastructure Fund**

This fund has been recently established. It is being seeded with $200 million of Territory Government funds and it is controlled by a board that is at arm's length from Government. Its job is to attract additional funds into the Infrastructure Fund and then to use those funds to back larger scale development projects in the Territory.

Labor supports this fund and will retain it.
Support the $5 billion Northern Australia Investment Fund

Labor supports this fund. We believe that the Territory Government should partner with business on large scale investment projects supported by this fund. Importantly, Labor will encourage and facilitate the partnership of local Territory business with interstate and international business to take advantage of this fund. In this way local Territory business can benefit and the flow on to the local community will be stronger.
Specific Infrastructure Commitments

Infrastructure expenditure that leverages the natural resources and other advantages of the Territory to enable economic growth

Labor will use the funds available to it for infrastructure growth in three main areas:

1. Investment in growing and developing the transport supply chain to underpin our trade focussed economy
2. Investment in major tourism infrastructure to add to the Territory’s tourism attraction
3. Investment in infrastructure that supports innovative technology and renewable energy

The items of expenditure outlined in this paper do not represent all the expenditure that will occur. This paper highlights key infrastructure issues and commitments.

Investing in the Transport Supply Chain

It is clear that the Territory has to develop an outward looking trade focussed economic base. Much work has been done over the last 15 years to build the transport capacity of the Territory to transport materials through the Territory to the Port and to their markets.

The Adelaide to Darwin railway has been a major boon to this plan. Much has been done to improve the live cattle trade (though more needs to be done.)

However, it is clear that the Government must do more.

Labor will invest in the Territory supply chain designed to unlock industry across the Territory and allow the Territory to produce goods and deliver them quickly to markets.

Labor expects that this will involve significant investment in roads, railway spur lines, port storage and handling needs.

Labor will develop a Transport Supply Chain Infrastructure Master Plan

On coming to office Labor will utilise the opportunity created by the Northern Territory Jobs Plan and the work done by its economic summit to develop a transport supply chain infrastructure master plan. By proper planning of economic growth Labor believes the Territory public will get the best “bang for their buck” and local industry will have the best opportunity to reap the benefits of any expenditure.

The Transport Supply Chain Master plan will focus on overcoming the impediments
to existing industries and to the requirements of newly emerging industries.

Labor expects that this will involve significant investment in roads, railway spur lines, port storage and handling needs.

Labor will support creation of a railway spur line to Queensland

Labor believes that the railway spur line to Queensland will provide a major boost to the development of a trade and export focussed economy in the Territory. We will continue efforts to make this spur line a reality. Labor will provide a financial commitment to this spur line in an effort to attract other investors.

Labor will develop Katherine as a major inland port and transport hub

Labor will be developing the Katherine region’s potential as a major horticulture and agricultural site but also believes that the Katherine region provides great opportunity to develop a Northern Australian transport hub. In Government Labor will work with industry to strengthen Katherine’s role as a transport cross ways for Queensland and Western Australian goods, especially from the Ord River project areas. Labor will also work with industry to develop Katherine as a centre for container storage and other industries associated with the link to Asia.

Labor will develop Tennant Creek as a major mining services centre and will support the building of the North East Gas Interconnector

Plans underway by the Northern Territory Government to develop a gas pipeline link to the East Coast are strongly supported by Labor. It is an important project which will add to the development future of the Territory. This pipeline has clear bipartisan support.

Labor will take the opportunity provided by the building of this pipeline to develop Tennant Creek as a major mining and mining service and supply centre. This will be backed up by investment in the infrastructure required to make this a reality.

Labor will support the development of the common user facility at Darwin Port

Labor will support the common user facility at Darwin Port and will match the commitment to invest $100 million of Territory funds to attract other investors.
Investing in Major Tourism Infrastructure

Labor believes that the Northern Territory tourism industry is an important and growing part of our diversifying economy.

Labor’s broader tourism policies are to be found under the Northern Territory Jobs Plan Tourism section. This section focuses on investment in infrastructure.

Labor will create a world class Indigenous Arts Trail across the Territory

Labor wants the Northern Territory to be the nation’s leading centre for Indigenous Art and recognised as one of the world’s leading places for Indigenous Art.

Labor recognises that Indigenous art centres are also important centres of knowledge which intrinsically link language, law, land and culture through a rich and long history of art. These centres are integral to sharing and preserving that history while providing significant economic leverage.

Over the next 15 years, Labor will develop a network of International class Indigenous art galleries throughout the Territory. These projects will be linked and form an Indigenous Art trail across the Territory. Wings or smaller galleries will be developed regionally.

Not only will this project create jobs in its construction phase it is designed to leverage increased tourism numbers and to bring attention to smaller, private or community owned galleries and galleries based in communities as part of a Territory wide promotion campaign.

Labor is proposing to work with all galleries to assist their growth. This could include a grants program that will allow them to upgrade their facilities, put in dining areas and café and improve their displays.

We want every tourist coming to Australia to know they must travel to the Northern Territory to see the world’s best Indigenous art on display and experience one of the world’s oldest cultures.

The Iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery based in Alice Springs – Part of Developing Alice Springs as the nation’s Inland Capital

This project will be the first of the National Indigenous Art Gallery projects. The proposal will create an iconic building in Alice Springs and will house the definitive national collection of Indigenous art.

Labor will engage with the Alice Springs and Central Australian community,
particularly Indigenous people and their representatives in the development of this project. Labor will also engage with the Museum and Art Gallery if the NT and proposed Chan Fine Art Gallery as well as nationally with major national art galleries to help bring together this iconic national collection.

This project will be staged with local discussion and involvement throughout the process. Labor will host a design competition to attract local, national and international designers to provide a design that is a fitting tribute to the fine Indigenous artists we will celebrate, and the beautiful colours of the Alice Springs landscape.

Labor will support the development of an internationally significant Indigenous cultural centre in Alice Springs. This project is owned by the Indigenous community of Alice Springs and Central Australia and they shall remain in control of the project. Labor's role will be to provide financial advice, legal and secretarial support to the project and assist where required to get this important project based in Alice Springs and underway.

The National Indigenous Cultural Centre will tell the story of Indigenous Australia. It will tell that story prior to European contact and since. It is an important national project.

These two projects will create an internationally recognised precinct reflecting on the culture and the skill and talent of Indigenous Australia. It will be a source of pride for all Australians and will play an important role in Labor's plans to develop Alice Springs as the inland capital of the nation.

**Gallery Wings in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Arnhemland**

As part of the Development of our Indigenous Art Trail Labor will work with communities in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Arnhemland to ensure that wings of the major national gallery in Alice Springs are developed to bring together the works of salt water people, desert people and everyone in between.

Labor will work with existing galleries in these communities to link with and develop a coordinated approach with the National Gallery in Alice Springs.
Links to Community Galleries

Lab or will promote community galleries as part of the National Indigenous Art Trail. Labor will offer infrastructure grants through its Tourism Infrastructure Grants program to improve the buildings housing the art.

Labor will develop a Museums master plan

The current Northern Territory Museum and Art Gallery is great but it is small and needs to be expanded. It also serves two roles- a museum and an art gallery. These are usually separated buildings and important in and of themselves.

We want to consider how to separate these. This will form the basis of a master plan for museum development in Darwin. This museum master plan will consult Territorians on the building of possible museums in Darwin including a Cyclone Tracy museum, a museum recognising the contribution of the Top Ends large families and facilities such as Children’s Museum and educational area.

Labor will Build A New Northern Territory Museum in Darwin

Included in this master plan will be the establishment of a new museum replacing the current Bullocky Point facility.

Labor believes it is time for a community discussion about the development and building of a new Territory museum preferably in the Darwin CBD / inner city. A Territory wide museum is an iconic feature of a capital city and placing it in the CBD complements the existing capital city architecture.

Labor will continue to use the Bullocky Point Centre as a museum facility perhaps to house other exhibitions.

Labor will also continue to develop the Chan Centre as a major Modern Art Gallery.

Labor supports the development of a Darwin Bombing experience on the wharf.

Labor will establish these major attractions in consultation with the Darwin and Palmerston Councils and the people of Darwin and Palmerston.

Investing in Infrastructure that Supports Innovative Technology and Renewable Energy

Labor believes that the future of the Territory lies in its ability to become an agile, nimble and innovative economy. Energy, cheap, reliable and renewable is the key to that happening.

The Territory’s energy infrastructure is old and is not attuned to modern renewable
energy developments.

Similarly with the rapid development of innovative technology such as 3D printing, electric and driverless cars, new battery technology and others the Territory must have new forms of infrastructure in place to allow us to take advantage of these developments.

Labor will also support the expansion of the ICT infrastructure across the Territory. Investment in expanding both the download and upload capacity of the people living in the bush will unlock business investment opportunities, e-health and distance education.

Labor will:

- Invest in infrastructure that modernises the Territory’s energy infrastructure and allows Territorians to supply their own energy needs and sell back into the system.
- The infrastructure required to establish a network of electric and driverless cars- these will be initially trialled by Government to undertake Government work.
Infrastructure expenditure that underpins community development

Labor will use its infrastructure budget to support the development of improved community outcomes. The major focus of this expenditure will be on housing though there will be key expenditure to urban growth, particularly in Darwin and Palmerston.

A Labor Government will use its infrastructure budget to:

Invest in Housing in Remote Communities

Labor will invest $1.1 billion over 10 years to create an additional 600 bedrooms and living spaces per year in remote communities. This is detailed in Labor’s Remote Housing Strategy. Labor will detail its housing plans in a Housing Territorians paper to be released. Contained within that policy will be:

Improve and expand housing for aged Territorians

Labor will use its infrastructure program to back the development of aged care housing options across the Territory. To keep older Territorians in the Territory Labor will work with the non-Government and private sector to expand housing options for seniors.

Improve and expand the community housing options

Labor will also invest in providing more housing options for those in critical social need, in particular women seeking to escape domestic violence, young people in housing need, Territorians with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues.
Infrastructure expenditure that underpins urban growth

Supporting the Darwin and Palmerston Master plans

Labor wants to provide certainty and growth to our capital city and its neighbouring city of Palmerston. Labor will do that by providing backing to both Councils CBD Master plans.

Both Councils have consulted widely and have spent considerable resources arriving at the key plans they want in their cities. Labor will support these and will negotiate infrastructure support to make these happen.

Labor will support the development of Barneson Boulevard with a $6 million contribution.

Urban growth in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural areas. Developing Weddell

Labor will work with Territorians to support ordered urban growth. We will provide the infrastructure to underpin urban infill and the proposed development of the Berrimah farm. And, with the creation of village nodes and consolidated commercial and residential development along the Stuart Highway, we will see thousands of new people living in Darwin and Palmerston.

Labor will support people living around villages like Parap and along transport corridors like the Stuart Highway.

Labor will let the rural area be rural.

Labor supports growth proceeding around the Cox Peninsula and will continue apply pressure to finalise these issues.

Over the course of its first term a Labor Government will do the master planning for the Stuart Highway growth corridor, the rural area and Weddell. During our second term start investing in the infrastructure that makes capable these things including the expansion to Weddell so that future Governments can turn land off.

Labor believes it is critical that Government sets up the potential for future Governments to make the right decisions for the Territory.

Invest in a Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund

Labor will allocate infrastructure funds into a Strategic Local Government Fund aimed
at investing in projects designed to lift liveability, health and community development outcomes in remote communities. These funds will be used to back projects such as re-sealing internal town/community roads, green streetscapes projects, storm water management, barge landings, cemeteries up-grade, accreditation of rubbish tips, communications infrastructure and other projects.

Labor will work with Regional Councils, regional authorities and the Australian Government to ensure programs and funds are coordinated and used most efficiently. Labor will work non-Government organisations such as LGANT and Indigenous representative bodies to ensure that their input is also provided.

Labor will ensure that this funding leverages the development of local Indigenous enterprise and businesses and will employ and train local Indigenous people.

Labor will also ensure that regional councils and local remote community organisations will be supported to undertake work on behalf of the Territory Government. This funding will promote Indigenous employment and training and provide Regional Councils and other community organisations with capacity to grow and develop their business models.

**Invest in Regional & Remote Sports & Recreation Infrastructure**

Labor will invest in supporting identified regional sports, recreation, arts and Festival events.

Labor sees this investment as an important investment designed to lift important community outcomes.

Bush sports and cultural events provide many benefits for the health, education, community well-being, economic development and local training to employment of remote and regional Territorians.
Financial Arrangements for Infrastructure

COSTS

National Indigenous Art Trail
- Likely NTG contribution $80 million in capital over next 8 years
- $40 million in capital grants through first term.

National Indigenous Art Gallery in Alice Springs

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<tr>
<td>Consultation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Design comp ($0)</td>
<td>Design completed</td>
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Support for Indigenous led National Indigenous Cultural Centre
Legal, financial and administrative support from within existing resources of Government.
Capital contribution of $20 million whenever draw down is achieved.

Capital Grants to Indigenous Art Galleries-
$10 million can be set aside each year for grants funding for Indigenous art galleries either community or commercially owned to upgrade within the context of the Indigenous Art Trail.

This funding would come from within the Territory infrastructure budget.

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Development of wings in Tennant Creek, Katherine and East Arnhem

This would involve upgrading and linking existing cultural centres in each town to the Indigenous Arts Trail. Expenditure to upgrade would be $5-10 million for each site.

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<tr>
<td>Design TC</td>
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<td>Design Katherine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design East Arnhem</td>
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Based on the outcomes of extensive studies Labor will support creation of a railway spur line to Queensland
Railway Spur Line to Queensland.

Costs unknown but sources of funding would be a mixture of private sector and Government.

Labor will develop Katherine as a major inland port and transport hub
Based on the concepts outlined in Plan. Likely to be staged over a number of years and would come from mixed sources.

Labor will develop Tennant Creek as a major mining services centre
Based on the concepts outlined in Plan. Likely to be staged over a number of years and would come from mixed sources.

Labor will support the building of the North East Gas Interconnector
Existing arrangements.

Labor will support the development of the common user facility at Darwin Port
$100 m from Port sale funds has been committed by NTG and we will endorse this.
Labor will undertake Museum Master planning and Build a New Northern Territory Museum in Darwin as part of the Development of Darwin as the nation’s North Australia Capital.

This will be sourced from NTG funds and will have a $100 million allocation for Stage One. Given the need to establish location and design an iconic building this is unlikely to be given the start up until final two years of a Labor Government first term.

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<tr>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Tendering and beginning</td>
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Investing in Infrastructure that Supports Innovative Technology and Renewable Energy

Invest in infrastructure that modernises the Territory’s energy infrastructure and allows Territorians to supply their own energy needs and sell back into the system.

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Redirected from within existing budget.

The infrastructure required to establish a network of driverless cars- these will be initially trialled by Government to undertake Government work.

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Redirected from within existing budget.
Infrastructure expenditure that underpins community development

Invest in Housing in Remote Communities

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Expenditure will average $100 m a year over ten years. By staging expenditure Labor acknowledges that getting this program underway will require planning and consultation.

Redirected from within existing budget.

Improve and expand housing for aged Territorians

Improve and expand the community housing options

The above projects will be detailed in future papers.

Supporting the Darwin and Palmerston Master plans

At this stage Labor has committed to $6 million for Barneson Boulevard.

Urban growth in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural areas. Developing Weddell

No expenditure in infrastructure terms in first term. Planned expenditure would occur outside of forward estimates period.

Invest in a Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund

Invest in Regional & Remote Sports & Recreation Infrastructure

The above projects will be detailed in future position papers.
Projects Already Endorsed by Labor

Multistorey Carpark at RDH

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Home for Rugby League

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Tell us what you think

The Territory needs a Government that is planning for the future and is ready to hit the ground running.

This position paper is a part of a suite of economic policies. It is part of an ongoing policy discussion which has already involved meeting many people right across the Territory. We have also held numerous public forums to date with more planned.

We want to hear from you regarding the plans outlined in this paper and any other questions or suggestions you have.

Tell us what you think about the ideas in this document.

You can let us know your thoughts by emailing opposition.leader@nt.gov.au or by calling 08 8928 6668.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and continuing our discussion in this crucial policy area for the Territory's future.