Transport Capital for Top End Rural and Regional

24 May 2016

The Country Liberals Budget 2016-17 will deliver economic strength, access, and growth to the Top End Rural area.

Transport Minister Peter Chandler said “infrastructure is a high priority for the Northern Territory Government and roads, in particular, are of great importance to business, industry and the community in the Northern Territory.

“We all know that without reliable roads, efficient ports, good rail services and effective logistics infrastructure, we cannot sustain business activity, attract new investment, or expand our industries – all essential for growing the Territory’s economy.”

A total of $589.6 million is being invested in 2016-17 to deliver transport infrastructure for Territorians.

This includes:

- $495.9 million in Capital Works, including minor new work of $10.7 million for roads and $9.4 million for transport assets;
- $10 million to continue the Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund Grants;
- $81.5 million in repairs and maintenance; and
- $2.25 million for infrastructure related expenses to plan for the future transport needs of Territorians.

“The focus of this Government is to unlock the potential of the Northern Territory by developing and maintaining a road network that supports job creation and economic development and growth.

The Country Liberals Government is pleased to announce the following Capital Works in Top End Rural area for the 2016-17 Budget.

**Wadeye barge landing and hardstand upgrade - $2 million**

- The Northern Territory Government will continue to invest in barge landings with an additional $2 million allocated for Wadeye.
- Currently, there is a total of $5.824 million of existing Northern Territory Government funding for various barge landing upgrades across the Top End.
- Barge landing capital upgrades will include continuing to work towards upgrading Maningrida, Gapuwiyak, Galiwinku and Ramingining.

- A new upgrade project for $2 million has been included for 2016-17 to upgrade the landing in Wadeye – one of the largest remote communities in the Northern Territory. The upgrade will include the barge landing, hardstand and access road.

Completion of Fog Bay Road upgrade - Rocky Creek Bridge - $5.77 million

- This project signifies many years of upgrading of the Fog Bay Road.

- The 2016-17 budget will continue to fund the existing upgrading of Leviathan Creek Bridge as well as provide new funding for the Rock Creek Bridge crossing – the last crossing to be upgraded.

- A total of $5.77 million of Northern Territory Government funding has been provided for Fog Bay Road in 2016-17.

Corroboree Billabong access road - $1 million

- The Northern Territory Government will continue to upgrade key tourist and recreational fishing access roads.

- $1 million has been provided for gravel road upgrades to the Corroboree Billabong access road to improve road condition and access to the Corroboree Billabong.

- It is anticipated that these works will be completed in late 2016.

Port Melville road upgrade - $27 million

- The Tiwi Plantation Corporation is now starting to export woodchip from Port Melville. This $27 million investment is to upgrade the road to support the forestry industry export from Port Melville.

- Currently, the road is an unsealed gravel road which is in poor condition. This upgrade will lift and seal the road to provide a better standard of access to support the industry development on Melville Island.

- This work will build on the existing upgrades of $5 million.

Gunn Point Road seal and upgrade - $15 million

- The Northern Territory Government will continue to upgrade key tourist and recreational fishing access roads.

- $15 million has been allocated over two years to upgrade and extend the seal on the Gunn Point Road.

- A tender for the design of the works will be awarded this year with works expected to commence early in the 2017 dry season.
“These new initiatives build on the work already underway or delivered on Fog Bay Road and Port Keats Road.”

“Transport infrastructure is a key driver of economic development and has been specifically identified by the agricultural, resource, tourism and transport industries as requiring investment to improve industry performance and growth.

“Both Government and industry need to invest in improving our basic infrastructure to expand and maintain high standards for our road, port and rail networks.

“The Country Liberals Government recognises Transport access is an economic enabler. Increased Transport connectivity creates jobs, community, and prosperity for the Territory,” Mr Chandler said.

**Media Contact:** James Perrin 0447 826 918