Peter Chandler
Minister for Transport

**Transport Capital Works for East Arnhem**

24 May 2016

The Country Liberals Budget 2016 will deliver economic strength, access, and growth to East Arnhem.

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 East Arnhem for the 2016-17 Budget.

**Arnhem Link Road - $16 million over two years**

- The Northern Territory Government, through the Department of Transport, works closely with the Northern Land Council on a number transport projects.
- Through this work, it has been identified that works on the road connecting Ramingining to Central Arnhem Road as well as starting to bridge across major rivers will provide opportunities for remote communities and Indigenous people. It will also provide social
cohesion for Traditional Owners to access country during the wet season and attend ceremony between communities.

- A total of $16 million of new Northern Territory Government funding has been allowed for over two years.

- The $5 million allocated in 2016-17 will lift and seal selected sections between Ramingining and Central Arnhem Road.

- The $11 million allocated in 2017-18 will provide for one bridge crossing over the major rivers in Arnhem Land. Further consultation will be undertaken with Northern Land Council as to which river will be bridged.

- This new $16 million investment is in addition to the $11 million of funding under the Regional Roads Productivity Package for Arnhem Link Road. The Regional Roads Productivity Package is jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory governments, with $9 million and $2 million in funding respectively.

“This new initiative builds on investment in transport infrastructure already delivered or underway in the East Arnhem Region including funding to construct a bridge over Rocky Bottom Creek on Central Arnhem Road and upgrades to a number of barge landings in remote communities.

“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.

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