Peter Chandler
Minister for Transport

Transport Capital Works for Katherine

24 May 2016

The Country Liberals Budget 2016 will deliver economic strength, access, and growth to the Katherine region.

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 Maintenances; 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 the Katherine region for the 2016-17 Budget.

Little Horse Creek and Big Horse Creek high level bridges - $34.5 million

- The Victoria Highway is part of the National Highway network and is the only sealed link between the Northern Territory and Western Australia. It is a key link in the Perth to Darwin National Corridor.
The proposed scope of works for this project is to replace the existing bridges at Little Horse and Big Horse Creeks with high level bridges. The approach roads will also be lifted to improve the flood immunity.

This project is jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. A total of $1 million was allocated in 2015-16 for design work. An additional $34.5 million will be allocated in 2016-17 to construct the project. The Australian Government has contributed $20 million and the Northern Territory Government is contributing $15.5 million.

Lajamanu access road seal - $5.9 million

- Sealing selected priority sections of Lajamanu Road will improve driver safety, reduce vehicle maintenance costs and also support regional growth by improving road access.
- Lajamanu Road extends 333.5 km from the Tanami Road to the Buntine Highway servicing pastoral leases, mining holdings and the major community of Lajamanu along with several outstations.
- The Northern Territory Government will continue to upgrade the Lajamanu Road with a further new allocation of $5 million in 2016-17. The new $5 million will be used to continue to seal selected sections.

Roper Highway upgrade and seal - $7.9 million

- The Northern Territory Government will continue to upgrade the Roper Highway with a further new allocation of $4 million in 2016-17. The new $4 million will be used to continue to upgrade and seal selected sections.
- The Northern Territory Government has continued to invest in the Roper Highway over many years, with a current commitment for investment from 2015-16 to 2018-19 of $13.5 million.

“These new initiatives build on the work already completed or underway including $40 million under the Regional Roads Productivity Package to construct bridges over the Roper and Wilton Rivers.”

“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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