Peter Chandler  
Minister for Transport  

Transport Infrastructure Program Territory Wide  

24 May 2016  

The Country Liberals Budget 2016 will deliver economic strength, access and growth Territory wide.  

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 works 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 Territory wide for the 2016 Budget.  

Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund - $10 million  

Given the success of the first two rounds of this grants program, the Country Liberals will be funding another round of Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund grants.  

A total of $10 million will be made available to local government, local businesses and Aboriginal Corporations to create sustainable local jobs and local economic opportunities for Territorians.
The grant funding is available for infrastructure works as well as feasibility studies and design works.

A total of $20 million worth of grants has already been allocated under the first two rounds of this grant program including:

- $1.3 million for cyclone repair works in Galiwinku roads;
- $1.8 million upgrade to Anzac Parade; and
- $2.3 million for Murganella Road upgrades.

The new investment of $10 million in 2016-17 will continue this grant program and build on the collaborative relationship between the Country Liberals Government and the community to build and strengthen our economy and infrastructure at the local level.

**Regional Aviation Access Program to upgrade aerodromes - $4.25 million**

Aerodromes provide access to some of the most remote parts of the Northern Territory.

Aerodromes are not just for passenger transport - they are often used for emergency purposes such as medical and cyclone evacuations.

During the wet season, air travel is often the only available choice for many remote communities.

Budget 2016 provides $4.25 million of funding for priority works on a number of remote aerodromes across the Northern Territory.

The project is jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments under the Regional Aviation Access Program

- Six priority projects have been selected -
  - $0.5 million Napperby: Extend the runway
  - $0.25 million Haasts Bluff: Transverse grade correction
  - $1.5 million Areyonga: Upgrade the runway and seal
  - $0.6 million Kalkgurung: Reseal the runway
  - $1.5 million Finke: Extend the runway and seal
  - $0.65 million Ngukurr: Reseal the runway.

This work will be supplemented by a number of smaller projects to be undertaken through the Transport Assets Minor New Works Program.

**Northern Territory Roads Package - Safety and Fatigue management - $15.7 million**
The Safety and Fatigue management program is fully funded by the Australian Government through the $77 million Northern Territory Roads Package.

The aim of the program is to reduce crashes on the national network and improve productivity for freight by providing forgiving road infrastructure and constructing facilities for managing driver fatigue.

The total program is approved for funding of $19 million, with the final $3 million of program allocated in 2016-17, which will fund the design and delivery of the following projects:

- Tactile edge lines on the Stuart Highway and Barkly Highway to assist in the prevention of driver fatigue related crashes; and
- Upgrades to the Stuart Highway from Motor Vehicle Registry turn off to Herbert Heritage Drive in Alice Springs

The detailed planning for the above projects has already commenced and these projects will be completed by May 2017.

**Northern Territory Roads Package - Strengthening and widening - $30 million**

The National Network Pavement Strengthening and Widening program is fully funded by the Australian Government through the $77 million Northern Territory Roads Package.

The program aims to improve safety and reliability of National Network Highways, within the Northern Territory through renewal of aged pavements and surfacing and widening of narrow road sections.

The total program is approved for funding of $47 million, with $6 million of program allocated in 2016-17, which will fund pavement strengthening of the Stuart Highway at Coolalinga and pavement strengthening and widening of various sections of the Victoria Highway.

**Territory Roads Pavement Strengthening and Widening - $23.4 million**

The Country Liberals Government continues to invest in asset renewal and upgrading of the existing sealed road network to improve key commuter, freight and community access routes with new investment of $9.5 million in 2016-17 for pavement strengthening and widening of Territory Roads, this includes:

- $2.5 million for pavement strengthening and asphalt resurfacing of ageing pavement sections of urban arterial roads including Trower Road, Chung Wah Terrace and Vanderlin Drive.
- $5.0 million for pavement strengthening and widening of rural arterial roads including pavement strengthening of the Arnhem Highway at Beatrice Hill and pavement
strengthening and widening of single-lane seal sections to two lanes on the Buntine Highway.

- $2.0 million for pavement strengthening and widening of rural secondary and local roads including pavement and seal widening of various sections of Dorat Road and pavement strengthening and widening of single-lane seal sections to two lanes on the Roper Highway.

“These new initiatives build on a number of large projects across the Northern Territory already underway including programs such as the $106 million Regional Roads Productivity Program – jointly funded between the Northern Territory and Australian Government and the $30 million Strategic Economic Roads Package – funded by the Northern Territory Government.”

“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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