Budget 2016 reveals $2.8 million to upgrade showground infrastructure

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Northern Territory showgrounds will be upgraded with the Northern Territory Government committing $2.8 million in Budget 2016 to improve showground infrastructure.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the announcement would benefit communities and groups that utilise showgrounds on a regular basis.

"The Country Liberals Government recognises the important role our showgrounds have in their respective communities," Mr Giles said.

"The showgrounds are much-loved assets, enjoyed by many interest groups in addition to staging agricultural shows.

"The money will be spent on repairs and upgrades to existing infrastructure, establishing new amenities, fencing, lighting, power and water upgrades."

The $2.8 million in funding will be allocated to organisations that manage showground infrastructure:

- Royal Agricultural Society of the NT (Darwin): $2 million
- Blatherskite Park (Alice Springs): $400,000
- Tennant Creek and District Show Society: $100,000
- Adelaide River Show Society: $75,000
- Katherine Town Council: $200,000
- Roper Gulf Regional Council (Borroloola): $25,000

Executive Officer of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory, Cherry Court said the refurbishment was a major undertaking and thanked the NT Government for their commitment to the ongoing future of the showgrounds.

"The Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society NT Inc are delighted with the grant from the NT Government to support the ongoing upgrade of the Darwin Showgrounds," Ms Court said.

"The showgrounds are an important community facility, which are used all year round for a wide variety of community and commercial events including the annual Darwin Show."

Chief Minister Adam Giles said that the Country Liberals Government has been working hard to create a confident culture that celebrates the Territory's lifestyle.

"All of the Northern Territory showgrounds have potential to showcase and support local and Territory-wide
economic activity, creating positive social and commercial benefits," Mr Giles said.

"Shows quite literally showcase local communities, promote excellence and boost civic pride.

“They encourage participation, provide family entertainment, connect communities and support local business."

Regional announcements will be made over the coming week.

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