Michael Gunner  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Tradies to Benefit from Government Support for Jobs**

1 February 2017

An additional $5 million for public housing repairs and upgrades will become available from today with small businesses and tradies now able to register for work under the NT Government’s boosted infrastructure program.

The public housing repairs and upgrades is part of the NT Government’s wider $22 million package to get money flowing in the community and to create certainty and confidence for business.

The stimulus package will create work for small business prior to 37 new and fast-tracked infrastructure projects - worth $120 million - coming on line in the second half of this year.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner said the stimulus package supports smaller infrastructure projects across the Territory, which in turn supports the smaller tradies.

“We understand some small businesses – particularly in the construction and industry sector – are doing it tough at the moment, so we have announced a raft of packages totalling $22 million to help support small business in the immediate term,” Mr Gunner said.

“Work is already flowing from our $22 million package to community projects, and from today local tradies will also be able to register for work to be carried out on our urban public housing stocks.”

Small trade businesses can register to be considered for a range of public housing work. The work will be delivered by small trade businesses with 19 employees or less across Darwin, Palmerston, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

$22 million Immediate Work Stimulus package is made up of:

- $10 million community organisation grants;
- $5 million public housing repairs and upgrades;
- $5 million for local steel industry;
- $2 million for remote health clinics repairs and upgrades
“We understand that a secure and rewarding job is the best way to improve our quality of life - that’s why this Government is investing in job creation right across the Territory,” he said.

“This Government took a detailed jobs plan to Territorians before the last election and have begun implementing this plan by:

• Increasing the Buy Local program to 30% across all stages of procurement;
• Keeping money flowing, including the $1.7 billion infrastructure program;
• Introduced stamp duty discount for first homebuyers of established homes to almost $24,000;
• Introduced a $10,000 home renovation grant for first homebuyers of established homes, and a $2,000 grant for first homebuyers of new homes

Tradies and small businesses can register interest for work now at dhcd.nt.gov.au or calling 8999 7969.

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