Michael Gunner  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

TRANSFORMING THE TERRITORY

24 April 2017

Chief Minister Michael Gunner has today revealed five of the Labor Government’s major projects aimed at boosting the economy, creating and sustaining thousands of jobs across the Northern Territory and transforming our cities and regions into tourist, business and investment attractions.

All five projects will begin in this term of Government, with funding starting in the upcoming 2017 Budget for work to roll out from this year.

“These major transformational projects have arisen out of the extensive Territory wide discussions conducted during the Economic Summits and from Labor’s pre-election commitments.

“They are aimed at creating jobs now both directly and indirectly and leveraging additional investment from the private sector later. Each project is focussed on creating further economic growth and development.

“At a time when the Territory needs investment, jobs and greater population growth the Government is investing and encouraging the private sector to invest as well.

The five projects are:

1) Revitalising the Darwin CBD

This major project – with $100 million Budget 2017 plan unveiled today - will be made up of a number of projects aimed at creating a transformed CBD and sense of place for Darwin. The projects include:

Redeveloping State Square

- Freeing up space and reducing heat generation by undergrounding 400 carparks near the Supreme Court – with construction expected to start in 2017-18;
- Demolishing the Chan Building and moving the NTG computer centre;
- Building a Fine Arts Gallery in State Square;
- Moving the bus terminal;
• Refurbishing the Old Reserve Bank – which will include updating the building and road parking area for tourist bus and cruise ship connections;

• Remove the old Naval Fuel Tanks, unlocking land for potential future development.

**Building a new Darwin Museum at Myilly Point**

The iconic Old Hospital site has been confirmed as the site of a major new Museum of the Northern Territory.

The NT Government is committing $50 million in this term of Government towards the project.

**Moving Students and Part of Charles Darwin University into the CBD**

An interagency taskforce will be established to work closely with CDU to support its strategy for growth. This will include exploring opportunities around the housing of students and the location of some elements of CDU in the CBD.

Mr Gunner said having students in the CBD has brought the city to life in other areas, including Melbourne.

This project could see existing buildings re-purposed for accommodation and learning facilities.

**2) Building a Ship Lift and Developing a Marine Business Park**

The Government has committed $100 million this term for the Ship Lift Project and Marine Business Park, creating a new industry for the Territory by enabling the maintenance and servicing of Defence and Australian Border Force vessels as well as the Territory and our neighbours shipping fleets.

Budget 2017 will see $10 million immediately go towards the project to service land adjacent to the proposed Ship Lift and progress the project through due diligence.

**3) Revitalising Alice Springs CBD**

The Alice Springs CBD will have $20 million allocated in Budget 17 to bring it to life and attract people into town through a major redevelopment. Planning and design works will commence in 2017-18 for projects to revitalise the Alice Springs CBD.

This is on top of the Territory Labor Government’s $50 million commitment for the development of an Iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery in Alice Springs.

**4) Establishing the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness hub**

The Territory Labor Government will invest in Katherine as the Territory’s Logistics and Agribusiness of national and international significance.

This project will be master planned led by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics with funding to be determined once the planning is in place.
Katherine region is one of the Territory’s brightest economic hotspots with international interest in agribusiness from soya beans through to the regions historical cattle industry.

This project comes on top of a Government commitment to invest an additional $10 million into Nitmiluk National Park, $10 million into the Katherine Art Trail and additional investment in Katherine schools announced this week.

5) Tennant Creek Mining and Mining Services Centre

The Labor Government’s pre-election commitment to developing the mining services industry in Tennant Creek will be given a boost with a commitment to the feasibility study into building a common user mine and processing facility in the town.

This study will determine the viability of this project with the aim to be to allow small mining operations to get underway without the cost of a major investment in their processing costs. This is an impediment which is preventing small companies and mining efforts from getting underway.

This project comes on top of investment in 2017-18 of $6.5 million for an Early Childhood Integrated Learning Centre, $5 million into upgrading the town’s sporting facilities and $1 million in entrance statements for the town.

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