Treasurer Nicole Manison today delivered the 2017 Northern Territory Budget outlining investment and opportunity in Tennant Creek and the Barkly.

Announcing a $1.75 billion infrastructure works package, $250 million in economic stimulus and a record $297 million for repairs and maintenance jobs right across the Territory, Ms Manison said investing in the Barkly is vital to economic development in the Territory.

“The Barkly and Tennant Creek is the Territory’s Mining and Mining Services centre, and Budget 2017 invests for the future by delivering more jobs and improving the lives of our children by building better communities,” Ms Manison said.

“This Budget is one of the most challenging in the Territory’s history. A $2 billion GST cut by the Federal Government over the next four years will have a deep impact on the Territory’s fiscal position and we are faced with a slowing economy.”

“As a result, the fiscal deficit is expected to be $1.3 billion in 2017-18. Importantly, if not for the GST cuts, the measures included in this Budget show that we would have been on track to deliver a surplus in 2019-20.

“The Territory needs investment right now, and it needs vision. Budget 2017 delivers both.”

“The projects and investment announced as part of Budget 2017 will deliver results immediately and into the future, supporting more jobs, better services and attracting more private investment.”

Ms Manison said key highlights of Budget 2017 for the Barkly region are:

- $106 million across the Territory to kick start the $1.1 billion, 10 year package to improve remote housing, create jobs and restore local decision making
- $37.5 million in Beef Roads funding for the Tablelands Highway & Barkly Stock Route
- $14.3 million for Bush Housing under the national partnership agreement
• $6.5 million to construct a new preschool in Tennant Creek

• $5 million for stage 1 of Sandover Highway upgrades to extend the seal to the Utopia health clinic

• $2 million to provide entrance statements into town

• $300 000 for every school in the Barkly to upgrade school infrastructure

• A feasibility study into a common user mine processing facility to boost mining opportunities for the region

“There is a bright future for the Barkly and the Northern Territory and our current challenge is making sure we support jobs and keep people here while we unlock more private investment and further grow our economy.”

“We have listened and taken decisive action in Budget 2017 to support people across the Territory and that is why we are investing for our future, in jobs, children and our community.”

www.budget.nt.gov.au

Media Contact: Lesley Major – 0419 288 284