The Darwin Show Grounds will receive a major infrastructure upgrade in time for the 2004 Darwin Show thanks to a $620 000 NT Government grant, Infrastructure Minister Chris Burns announced today.

This is the first major facelift for the Darwin Showgrounds (aside from Sideshow Alley) in more than 50 years, and will include the upgrade of electrical and hydraulic infrastructure as well as landscape and drainage improvements.

Dr Burns said that he had requested a review of the state of the water and electrical infrastructure in response to concerns raised by the Royal Agricultural Society of the NT.

“Aside from an upgrade of Sideshow Alley in 2000, this is the first major facelift the Showgrounds have received since 1951,” Dr Burns said.

“Most Territorians love the Darwin Show, but unfortunately every year historically there are problems with the existing power distribution system being overloaded which results in power supply interruptions,” Dr Burns said.

“To overcome this problem several mobile generators have been used to maintain the continuous power supply to the show ground, but this is an expensive and inappropriate long-term solution.”

Dr Burns said the upgrades will include undergrounding the power cables at the Showgrounds, and added that the internal water reticulation system – which is prone to bursting when irrigation pumps are used to water the oval – would also be repaired.

“The electrical reticulation infrastructure is currently insufficient for the loads placed upon it,” Dr Burns said.

“I have approved $570 000 for the Royal Agricultural Society to carry out these upgrades, as well as a further $50 000 to upgrade the front area of the Showgrounds running parallel to the Stuart Hwy.

“These works will greatly enhance the entrance to the grounds, make it safer during Show time and improve the efficiency of maintaining an area which in the past has been labour intensive and expensive.”

Dr Burns said the project works will provide more jobs for Territorians, and all works will be completed in time for this year’s show.

to the top