$482 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND TO BUILD THE TERRITORY’S FUTURE

The Martin Government will spend $482 million in cash for infrastructure as part of its ongoing effort to build the Territory’s future, create jobs and provide more work for local business.

In addition, Budget 2006 will see the Government’s commitment to the Darwin Waterfront and Convention Centre result in $100 million being spent by the Darwin Cove Consortium on that project this financial year.

Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns said this spending takes to $2.7 billion total Government cash on capital works, minor new works, and repairs and maintenance since 2001.

“The construction industry provides thousands of jobs for Territorians and work for local business, as well as significant flow-on benefits throughout the economy,” Dr Burns said.

“Government is underpinning the growth and expansion of the construction industry with this unprecedented level of spending.”

BUILDING THE FUTURE: DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE AND WATERFRONT

“The Darwin Convention Centre and Waterfront is a landmark project that will support the Territory’s construction industry for the next 15 years,” Dr Burns said.

“This year, Government is committing $100 million into this important project.

“The finished product will add a new economic dimension to our tourism industry and provide an exciting new facility for locals. The public works, including the Convention Centre and wave pool, will be completed in 2008.”

BUILDING BETTER ROADS

Budget 2006 contains a total infrastructure program for Territory roads and national highways of almost $135 million.

This includes new and ongoing spending of:

- $29 million to continued improvements on the Victoria Highway
- $13.9 million for the Mereenie Loop Road
- $6.1 million to upgrade sections of the National Highway
- $4.5 million for the Litchfield Loop Road
- $2 million for the Outback Way
• $1.3 million for upgrading on the Maryvale Road
• an extra $500,000 for the Sandover Highway taking total spending to $1 million

Work will also continue on upgrading the Central Arnhem Road, the Point Stuart Road and the Lasseter Highway.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDS THE TERRITORY’S FUTURE

As part of building the Territory’s future the Government will invest in key infrastructure projects, including:

• $8.6 million for the Desert People’s Centre in Alice Springs
• $1.3 million for Mt John Valley head works to provide more residential subdivisions for Alice Springs
• $1.3 million to replace the Power Station at Canteen Creek
• $1 million for better 1st and 2nd gorge crossovers at Katherine Gorge
• $1 million for the container crane upgrade at the East Arm Port
• $1.1 million for upgrading Fisherman’s Wharf
• $730 000 to drill and equip new bores on Nguiu

POWER WATER INVESTMENT

The Power Water Corporation will invest $87.1 million in capital works and $39.8 million in repairs and maintenance in Budget 2006.

Projects include:

• $25 million for a new power generation unit in Darwin
• $7.5 million for a new generation unit in Alice Spring
• $5 million for a new Archer Zone substation in Palmerston.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

In Budget 2006, the Martin Government continues to spend strongly on housing construction to support job creation, assist with community development and build better futures for Territory families.

Housing Budget Highlights include:

• $2 million for public housing, tailored upgrades in urban centres
• $3 million for government employee housing upgrades
• $4 million for new government employee housing or replacement government housing in remote communities
• $2 million to redevelop public housing unit complexes in urban areas, such as Blain St in Tennant Creek and Runge St in Coconut Grove
• $6.7 million for minor new works for housing.

“The Martin Government is continuing to build a strong foundation for the future of the Territory through ongoing record spending on infrastructure throughout the Territory,” Dr Burns said.

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