Minister’s Message

During May, I held Budget 2015 presentations in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs; where I am sure I met some readers of Inside Infrastructure. I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with industry and present highlights of the $1.385 billion investment in Infrastructure. Over the coming year we will see the unlocking of fantastic economic opportunities for the north, as we continue our partnership with the Australian Government.

Northern Territory Government construction contracts provide employment opportunities for all Territorians in the construction industry, including Indigenous people, especially in works in remote locations, to support the delivery of the Government’s Infrastructure Program.

Of significant note, for the month of March 2015 there was an increase of five per cent in Indigenous employment man hours worked on the Tiger Brennan Drive duplication project, bringing the total Indigenous employment to 30 per cent.

Our ongoing commitment to providing much needed infrastructure investment across the Territory is demonstrated by the Department of Infrastructure releasing 1022 tenders valued at $738,594,312 (Tier 2-5) to local companies as at 30 April 2015, which means jobs for Territorians.

I take this opportunity to thank you, our local construction industry. Industry and government working collaboratively is critical to delivering an infrastructure program which ultimately benefits all Territorians.

Chief Executive’s Message

I am pleased to advise the Department of Infrastructure (DoI) will be rolling out regional procurement workshops in June. The workshops will focus on:

- Local versus interstate
- Tender assessment criteria
- Benefits of local
- Advertising tenders released to market and tenders awarded
- Managing contractor model
- Sub-contractor protection
- Indigenous employment

The workshops will be held at 4pm in the following locations:

- Katherine, Thursday 11 June, Godinymayin Cultural Centre, Stuart Highway
- Alice Springs, Monday 15 June, Chifley Hotel Gum Tree Room, 34 Stott Terrace
- Tennant Creek, Tuesday 16 June, DoI Training Room, DoI Complex, 33 Leichhardt Street
- Nhulunbuy, Thursday 18 June, Walkabout Lodge Gulf Room, 12 Westal Street
- Darwin, Monday 22 June, Double Tree Hilton on the Esplanade, Reflection Room

I encourage all industry stakeholders to attend, registrations can be made at feedback.doi@nt.gov.au
By the end of June this year the Department of Infrastructure will oversee the completion of at least 30 temporary homes in Galiwinku. A total of 42 temporary homes will be installed to house community residents during the staged reconstruction of 81 homes over four years. During this period eight homes will also be completely refurbished.

Installation of the temporary homes has progressed to plan with local workers making up between 20 and 60 per cent of the workforce on site.

A contract was awarded to Arnhem Electrical Contractors P/L to connect the temporary homes to power water and sewer services, and finishing touches, including fencing and landscaping, will be completed by Delta Reef Gumatj who also cleared the land to make way for the temporary homes.

The demolition of homes deemed beyond economical repair has commenced and the first tender to replace homes will be released in the coming weeks. The demolition of these homes will take place progressively over the next six months.

Up to 40 of the homes will be replaced over the next 12 to 18 months with the remainder delivered over the longer term to maximise local development and training on the island.
The $88 million duplication of Tiger Brennan Drive is progressing well, with local company Allan King and Sons being awarded the second section, Road Package Two - Amy Johnson Avenue to Bowen Street. The last section of road works, Road Package One, Bowen Street to Woolner Road, is currently out to tender, closing on 12 June 2015.

The Hidden Valley Bridge foundation piling and headstock construction is now complete, with temporary pavement re-instated, to allow the bridge and intersection area to function in its original configuration. The construction program allows for a six week uninterrupted period for setup, convening and pack up, of the V8 Supercar event, late June 2015.

Soft soil treatment works nearing completion near Bayview

Road Package Three - Berrimah Road to Amy Johnson Avenue - is progressing well with the addition of a second Surface Miner and Road Profiler, to the fleet of equipment removing the high areas and producing material for the surrounding low lying fill areas. Culvert drainage construction is also well underway.

Road Package Two - Amy Johnson Avenue to Bowen Street - has commenced clearing and rock removal works, in addition to the new fencing currently being installed along the Charles Darwin National Park boundary.

Early works in soft soils has also commenced adjacent the Woolner intersection, with a small area of preload being undertaken for culvert extensions in the area. This will make way for an extended dedicated left hand turn lane into Woolner Road, outbound from the CBD and the construction of the linking cycle path in the area.

Indigenous employment numbers have increased from 25 per cent in March to 30 per cent in April 2015, this is a great outcome for the project and well above anticipated levels.

Following on from the success of the Technical Indigenous Employment Program Secondments, the Department of Infrastructure continues to meet with Contractors to provide host employment opportunities to assist with the development of valuable and relevant hands-on work experience, skills and knowledge.

These secondments continue to promote valuable partnerships to increase and strengthen the workforce participation for Indigenous Territorians through the provision of employment, training and career development.

To further maximise these partnerships, the department will work with the Department of Corporate and Information Services to offer employment for a further five Indigenous Technical Trainees through the Northern Territory Government’s Indigenous Employment Program, commencing in July 2015. The Indigenous Employment Program is specifically designed to attract Indigenous jobseekers and will comprise a 20 week pre-employment program providing participants with skills relevant to entry level positions and will incorporate a Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure Work Preparation, which will create a pathway to future employment.

Contractors who are interested in hosting an Indigenous Technical Trainee on secondment can contact Tracey Mehonoshen, Indigenous Employment and Training Coordinator on (08) 8946 5012 or via email at tracey.mehonoshen@nt.gov.au
**Lambrick Cycle Path**

Construction of a new cycle path between Palmerston and Howard Springs will commence in July 2015.

The path will link the existing cycle path on Lambrick Avenue to the Howard Springs cycle path. This linkage will provide safer cycling and pedestrian access between Palmerston and Howard Springs.

The NT Government promotes cycling as an active and sustainable form of transport. Recognising the importance of cycling to our health, the environment and our communities, $5 million has been committed to improving cycling infrastructure across the Territory over 5 years.

**Leviathan Creek Crossing on the Fog Bay Road**

Construction of a bridge over Leviathan Creek on the Fog Bay Road is scheduled to commence in August 2015.

Upgrading Fog Bay Road at creek crossings aims to provide year round access road to the Dundee area, which will contribute to improved road safety for local residents and visitors and support future development in the region.

As part of the upgrading of Fog Bay Road, crossings at Annie Creek and Charlotte River have been upgraded with new bridges and approaches including drainage and protection works.

Leviathan Creek Bridge will include construction of a new 15 metre dual lane bridge and 1.5 kilometres of new sealed pavement and drainage and protection works.

A tender for the construction works will be released in June 2015 and construction is anticipated to commence early August 2015. Completion of the works is scheduled for December 2015.

During construction the existing road crossing will be used as the detour, which will minimise disruptions to traffic.

Rocky Creek has been identified as the final creek crossing to be upgraded, to provide year round access along Fog Bay Road.

**Contract Award Data**

During the period 1 July 2014 – 30 April 2015 a total of 318 quotations and tenders were awarded across all Tier 3, 4 and 5 for a total value of $398 513 837.59

96.23 per cent of all tenders awarded by the Department of Infrastructure between 1 July 2014 and 30 April 2015 were to local Northern Territory (NT) companies. NT businesses were awarded 98.75 per cent of the value of all tenders.

<table>
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<th>Tier 3, 4 &amp; 5 - All Public, Select Tenders and Quotations</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interstate (incl. tenderers established in NT)</td>
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<td>$4 991 264.23</td>
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**Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum in Construction Contracts**

Northern Territory Government contracts provide employment and/or apprentices/trainee opportunities for local Indigenous persons, especially in the delivery of works in remote locations.

The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) is seeking to improve the participation rate of Indigenous employees, trainees and apprentices directly employed through department issued contracts.

All DOI construction tenders over $500 000 (Tier 4 and Tier 5) now feature a nominated provisional sum to support Indigenous employment. The amount of the provisional sum is based on each project’s estimated costs.

Under the initiative, contractors can claim against the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum by providing a monthly Indigenous Employment Report in support.

Recently, the initiative was refined to ensure maximum direct employment outcomes are achieved from the available funding. Tenders advertised from mid-February 2015 do not allow the following items to be claimed;

- Employment agency/broker fees
- Mentoring costs
- Accommodation
- Travel
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Training
- Indigenous employees not working directly on the works

At 21 May 2015, 105 tenders had been advertised with the provisional sum requirements to support Indigenous employment participation. These tenders had a combined value in excess of $253 million. To date, more than $300 000 has been claimed and paid against Indigenous Employment Provisional Sums.

**Contacts**

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