Central Australia is set to benefit from the Territory Government’s investment in housing, health, roads, community services, infrastructure, education and Indigenous development.

The Territory Budget will build a strong economy for Central Australia that will attract investment and create jobs for people in the regions.

The Budget also delivers safe and stable economic management that will ensure there are opportunities for Territorians who want to work and get ahead and participate in the workforce.

Our investment in infrastructure in the regions is delivering the vital projects to improve the quality of lives and assisting local construction activity, contractors and builders.

The Government’s sound fiscal policy and budget repair has been able to provide the right financial balance to keep investing in the regions and making sure the budget deficit doesn’t blow out.

It wasn’t that long ago that Central Australia was left in bad shape with a lack of critical infrastructure spending and law and order issues were out of control.

Centralians remember the scandalous expenditure imbalance between Darwin and the rest of the NT in the past, we will not abandon the regions and communities.

The Government is up to the challenge of growing the regions, easing cost of living pressures, rewarding hard work and not discriminating on the basis of where Territorians choose to reside.

We are a responsible Government making good Budget decisions to ensure Central Australia continues to thrive and develop.

Adam Giles
Chief Minister
Minister for Central Australia
Central Australia projects and initiatives funded in the 2016-17 Budget include:

**Housing**
- A voucher of up to $2,000 per home owner-occupier on a 50:50 co-contribution basis are now available to assist with repairs and maintenance for owner-occupier homes. Small business can register now for the scheme which is capped at $20 million.
- A 50% stamp duty discount for first home buyers for purchasing established homes in the Territory up to $450,000 and capped at $10,000 thereafter.
- Revitalisation of social housing in urban centres through $140.4 million over five years for the first phase of the Housing Strategy, which will see the construction of around 270 new dwellings.
- $350 million* over two years, to construct new and upgrade existing housing in remote Indigenous communities.
- $25.3 million to construct new houses and services at Arlparra.

**Transport**
- $28.8 million* for continued upgrades to the Outback Way (Plenty Highway & Tjukuru Road).
- $6 million over two years to upgrade the Sandover Highway.
- $16.5 million over two years for the Maryvale Road.
- $61.9 million* to continue priority regional roads projects including the Santa Teresa Road.
- $5 million to continue the landscaping of urban roads, including from Herbert Heritage Drive to the Motor Vehicle Registry.
- $23 million to continue works to complete the sealing of the Mereenie Inner Loop.
- $1 million to upgrade a section of the Stuart Highway to extend the open speed limit from north of Ali Curung turn-off to Tennant Creek.
- $2 million to construct and upgrade renal clinics in Alice Springs.
- $149 million, five-year agreement between the NT Government and St John Ambulance.
- $185.9 million over five years for electronic health records system.

**Education**
- $3.13 million to complete the $7.16 million Braitling Primary School redevelopment.
- $1 million to upgrade the existing hall at Ross Park Primary School.
- $3.3 million for isolated student education through the Alice Springs School of the Air.
- $8.28 million for infrastructure upgrades to schools.
- $500,000 for the new Larapinta Child and Family Centre and support Families as First Teachers.
- $44.69 million for repairs and maintenance and minor new works in schools across the Territory.
- $2 million for Sadadeen Primary School to refurbish assembly hall.
- $1 million to support aviation services between main regions.
- $1 million to continue strategic asset planning studies for the transport network.
- $1.3 million for public bus transport.
- $1.88 million to provide school buses and special needs transport.

**Health**
- $16.78 million to continue remediation and upgrades at Alice Springs Hospital.
- $55.87 million for mental health and suicide prevention programs across the Territory.
- $5.1 million in Commonwealth funding for the construction of a multipurpose facility at the Alice Springs Hospital.
- $500,000 for the new Larapinta Child and Family Centre and support Families as First Teachers.
- $44.69 million for repairs and maintenance and minor new works in schools across the Territory.
- $2 million for Sadadeen Primary School to refurbish assembly hall.

**Roads**
- $5.45 million to continue to seal and upgrade sections of Tanami Road.
- $5.1 million in Commonwealth funding for the construction of a multipurpose facility at the Alice Springs Hospital.
Business

- $5.25 million* over two years for bakeries in remote communities
- $400,000 for the Business Engagement Strategy and promote events on the NT business calendar
- A Buy Local Plan, which includes a range of procurement reforms designed to assist local businesses in earning a greater percentage of government spending

Cost of Living

- $50 million to expand and upgrade the Owen Springs and Tennant Creek Power Stations
- Increasing competition and transparency in retail fuel market
- A 5% reduction in household electricity tariffs from Jan 2016 and a range of market reforms placing further downward pressure on electricity prices
- $17.6 million to continue the Sport Voucher scheme ($200 per child each year)
- $6 million for the early childhood services subsidy

Police and Emergency Services

- $2 million for new body-worn video systems for frontline police
- $361,000 to implement a Territory-wide random drug-driver testing
- $3.23 million to provide enhanced monitoring and surveillance of offenders in the community

Tourism

- $10 million for a skywalk tourism experience. Consultation will begin with traditional owners and stakeholders in Central Australia to identify a potential site
- $29 million to market and promote the Territory as a leisure destination
- $8 million for cooperative marketing activities with airlines and industry partners
- $3.97 million to upgrade the Alcoota Fossil Beds Field Station
- $780,000 to Tourism Central Australia for visitor information services and marketing activities in Alice Springs
- $5 million for the tourism infrastructure grants program
- $750,000 for carpark upgrades at Watarrka National Park

- $6.7 million to support the Back to School payments scheme ($150 per student each year)
- Increasing land supply to provide more affordable options
- $8.5 million to undertake a ‘Smart Grid’ trial to provide households and businesses with more information about energy consumption to assist with reducing power bills

Protecting Territorians

- $33.25 million for out-of-home-care and child protection services
- $100,000 to upgrade the Alice Springs Women’s Shelter
- $2.2 million for upgrades at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre
- $6.77 million to continue delivering domestic violence initiatives as part of the Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy

[Image of a family at a park]

Safety is Everyone’s Right
Communications

- $5 million to continue expanding telecommunication services
- $12.6 million over three years towards the replacement of ultra-high frequency Government radio equipment and infrastructure
- $470,000 to provide free internet access in remote communities
- $370,000 for 22 mobile phone hot spot locations

Territory Events

- $690,000 Red CentreNATS funding
- $1.5 million for 2016 Masters Games
- $1 million to continue to hold National Rugby League premiership games in the territory including a pre-season game in Alice Springs

Indigenous Territorians

- $1 million for new water sources at Yuendumu
- $21.3 million for the Homelands Program to provide housing and maintenance services
- $1.22 million for the operation of Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park

Parks and Sports

- $5.8 million to operate the Alice Springs Desert Park
- $4.2 million to continue the redevelopment of netball facilities
- $200,000 for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- $450,000 for Telegraph Station and Eastside mountain bike trails developments
- $2 million to construct a synthetic athletics track at Centralian Middle School
- $2 million to upgrade ovals in regional and remote areas
- $4 million in total for sports infrastructure grants
- $400,000 for Blatherskite Park infrastructure

Knowledge Territory

- $1 million to establish the independent Office of the Chief Scientist to provide advice on science and innovation
- $1 million for the Knowledge Territory Study Voucher program that will assist eligible apprentices and trainees with the cost of work wear and other necessities in their first year

Got an issue?

Let me know how my Government can address issues that are affecting you.