Budget 2010 Delivering Now for Arafura Families

Budget 2010 will see the Henderson Government continue to invest in Arafura with boosted schools, housing, roads and community infrastructure.

The Minister for Indigenous Policy, Malarndirri McCarthy, said Budget 2010 was delivering now for families in Arafura.

“The Henderson Government is delivering now for families in Arafura with record spending to boost hospitals, schools community safety and housing,” Ms McCarthy said.

“Budget 2010 builds on the significant investment by the Henderson Government in Arafura over the past eight years that has boosted services, improved facilities and created economic opportunities.”

Member for Arafura, Marion Scrymgour, said Budget 2010 continued to invest in the future of Arafura and delivered key projects that will secure and create jobs in the region.

“Budget 2010 invests in funding better services and supports economic development for Indigenous Territorians,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The Henderson Government is delivering a record $980 million investment for boosted infrastructure for Indigenous Territorians.

“Budget 2010 delivers the single biggest investment in the Territory’s history to improve services in the bush, and make a change for Indigenous Territorians.”

RECORD INVESTMENT IN REMOTE HOUSING

The joint Commonwealth and Territory ten-year $1.76 billion Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) to improve housing and related infrastructure in Indigenous communities will continue to roll out in 2010-11, delivering:
Joint Commonwealth and Territory funding of $354 million for new, rebuilt and refurbished housing, in remote Indigenous communities and town camps as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

$236.5 million to provide land services and essential services infrastructure in remote communities

$1.7 million to survey new and existing residential developments and infrastructure in Territory Growth Towns as part of a $3.6 million three year initiative

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE HOUSING

Budget 2010 also delivers additional funding for Government Employee Housing in remote regions including:

- $16.4 million for new and upgraded Government Employee Housing
- Commonwealth funding of $7.8 million for teacher housing

IMPROVED TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Budget 2010 delivers funding to improve transport options for remote communities including:

- $7.5 million to upgrade remote airstrips at Utopia, Canteen Creek and Yarralin communities
- $4.5 million over five years for Airstrip Reporting Officers to meet safety requirements at Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) certified remote air strips including Milingimbi, Maningrida Gapuwiyak;
- $14 million to upgrade Central Arnhem Road
- $2 million as part of a $6.2 million three year program to upgrade barge landing facilities at Maningrida, Nguiu, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, and Galiwinku
- $3.1 million over the next two years for regional bus trials in Central Australia and the Top End.

While a further $2 million will provide further upgrades and road strengthening to the Arnhem Highway.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Henderson Government in conjunction with the Australian Government is providing additional funding to increase police officers and more stations in remote areas.

Budget 2010 includes initiatives for safer communities including:
$27.1 million from the Commonwealth for additional Police in Remote Areas
$44.4 million for the completion of new Police stations at Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yarralin, Arlparra and Imanpa, supported by the Commonwealth
$7.9 million to continue the expansion of the Child Abuse Task Force
$4.9 million to upgrade existing and construct new cyclone shelters across Territory coastal communities
$1.5 million to increase the capacity of culturally secure Aboriginal child protection and family support services
$300,000 for Remote Area Corrections Officers
$1 million for the establishment of Northern Territory Emergency Services volunteer units in Growth Towns

A $14.7 million increase in the capacity of child protection services in the Territory will also greatly benefit remote communities.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

The Henderson Government continues its commitment to improve education outcomes for Indigenous Territorians with Budget 2010.

Budget 2010 provides $17.6 million for four Child and Family Centres, including centres in, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Ngukurr.

The Maningrida and Gunbalanya centres will provide families with access to a range of parenting and family support programs.

The centres will provide a multipurpose space for family and community activities and include a childcare centre built to licensed standards for up to 50 children.

Maningrida School will also receive $1.25 million for upgrades to the primary school block and the teacher prep area in the secondary block.

Warruwi School will receive $300,000 to innovate school learning environments determined in consultation with the school community.

Under the Henderson Government’s Working Futures Budget 2010 also delivers:

- $21.4 million as part of the Commonwealth’s five-year commitment to fund 200 additional teachers
- $3.6 million for 20 ‘virtual’ early childhood integrated service hubs and Families as First Teachers program in the Growth Towns
- $2.5 million for mobile preschools
- $5.3 million to boost education and training in Territory Growth Towns
- $2 million to upgrade Homeland Learning Centres

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