The Henderson Government continues to invest in Darwin’s Northern suburbs with more than $750 million to improve schools, hospitals, housing and infrastructure.

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie said Budget 2010 was delivering now for families in the northern suburbs.

“The Henderson Government is delivering now for families in Darwin’s northern suburbs with record spending to boost hospitals, schools, housing and community safety” Ms Lawrie said.

“Budget 2010 builds on the significant investment by the Henderson Government in the northern suburbs over the past eight years, which has driven economic growth and created local jobs.

“This year’s Budget continues to invest in our great northern suburbs and deliver key projects, including $5 million for new student facilities at Casuarina Senior College and $43.5 million for new and upgraded emergency stand-by power generation facilities at Royal Darwin Hospital.”

**RECORD INVESTMENT IN HEALTH**

Budget 2010 delivers record funding of $292.8 million for Royal Darwin Hospital, an increase of 161 per cent since 2001.

This year’s Budget includes $43.5 million to boost infrastructure at the Hospital for more efficient airconditioning systems, greater back-up power to meet increased infrastructure demands and reduce the hospital’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Budget 2010 provides a $7.26 million boost to deliver additional staff and expanded chemotherapy services at the new $22 million Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre.

The funding includes:

- $3.2 million to support the operation of the centre
- $2.48 million for allied health and support services
- $820,000 for expanded chemotherapy services
- $750,000 for self-care patient accommodation at the refurbished Mirambeena Street facility.

**RECORD BOOST TO SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**

Budget 2010 provides record funding to build better schools and recruit more teachers, including $21.4 million for an extra 170 teachers in remote schools.

“The Government is also on track to meet its promise to upgrade the Territory’s 74 government primary and group schools,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This year’s Budget provides $300,000 for Anula, Karama, Ludmilla and Wagaman schools.”

The Government is also providing $2.4 million over four years to establish five Centres for Excellence in senior secondary colleges with the first two centres opening in 2010-11 at Darwin High School for Engineering and Science and at Casuarina Senior College for Health Sciences.

**SAFER COMMUNITIES**

A new police beat will open in Parap with the Henderson Government providing $6 million to build and maintain police beats at Karama, Parap, Nightcliff, Casuarina and Palmerston.

The Henderson Government is also delivering safer streets with:

- $1.57 million for day and night patrols and a public hotline
- $1.44 million for CCTV monitoring in the Greater Darwin region
- continued campaigns encouraging responsible drinking
- stronger Alcohol Court to deal with problem drinkers.

**HOUSING**

Budget 2010 sees the Henderson Government deliver record tax cuts to support home ownership and record funding to fast-track land release.

Budget 2010 includes $49 million over three years to build 150 new homes, including three new seniors’ villages with 28 units in Malak and 45 units in the new Palmerston East suburb of Johnston.

“The new villages will provide more housing options for senior Territory Housing tenants and help to free up larger houses for younger families,” Ms Lawrie said.

**TAX CUTS TO SUPPORT HOME OWNERSHIP**
Budget 2010 delivers tax cuts that will save first home buyers up to $26,730, senior Territorians $8500 and principal place of residence buyers $3500 when buying a home.

The stamp duty exemption for first home buyers increases from the first $385,000 to $540,000, saving home buyers up to $26,730.

The Henderson Government is introducing a new concession for senior Territorians and Pensioner and Carer Concession Card holders, reducing stamp duty by $8500.

In addition, the principle place of residence rebate has increased from $2500 to $3500.

**HOMESTART BOOST**

Budget 2010 delivers an increase in the Homestart NT purchase price caps and income limits, making the scheme accessible to more Territorians.

Homestart NT lifts the price cap in Darwin and Palmerston from $420,000 to $475,000 – a $55,000 increase.

**GREENING THE TERRITORY**

The Henderson Government is providing $4 million over two years for the Green Heart of Darwin project by upgrading the Rapid Creek corridor and a further $2 million for green streetscape initiatives around Darwin.

Budget 2010 delivers $625,000 to establish the Northern Territory Container Deposit Scheme by 2011. The scheme will help to reduce litter and provide schools and community groups with a chance to raise funds.

This year’s budget also provides $390,000 for the Water Tank Rebate Scheme, as well as $700,000 to continue the ecoBiz NT program helping small-to-medium businesses reduce their energy and water use.

The Henderson Government is also providing $500,000 for further resources and new staff at the Environment Protection Authority, following new legislation which has expanded its role as an environmental watchdog.

**GREAT TERRITORY LIFESTYLE**

Budget 2010 delivers $7 million to support major sporting and music events with:

- $1.8 million to host the Arafura Games from 7-14 May 2011
- $1.5 million to bring AFL matches to the Territory, as part of a four-year $5.6 million agreement
- $1.4 million for the V8 Supercars, including the Race and Rock Concert
• $500,000 for ‘BASSINTHEGRASS’ and the Alice Springs music event ‘THE CONCERT’
• $300,000 to bring the North Queensland Cowboys to Darwin for a NRL game and training camp
• $300,000 to stage three pre-season Brumbies trial matches, as part of a three-year $900,000 agreement
• $100,000 for the Hottest 7’s Rugby Tournament
• $400,000 for the Australian Super bikes event at Hidden Valley.

Budget 2010 delivers new and improved sport and recreation facilities with:

• $4.2 million for the Arafura Athletics Track
• $1.25 million to upgrade the Hidden Valley Raceway Motor Sports Complex, as part of a three-year $4 million commitment to upgrade key infrastructure at Hidden Valley
• $250,000 for the Ethnic Communities Facilities Development Program.

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