Budget 2010 Delivering Now for Central Australian Families

The Henderson Government continues to invest in Central Australia with more than $560 million to improve schools, hospitals, housing and infrastructure.

The Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton said Budget 2010 was delivering now for families in Central Australia with $38 million to upgrade Alice Springs Hospital, $8.27 million to upgrade schools and $10 million to fast-track headworks for housing at the AZRI site.

“The Henderson Government is delivering now for families in Central Australia with record spending to boost hospitals, schools community safety and housing,” Mr Hampton said.

“Budget 2010 builds on the significant investment by the Henderson Government in Central Australia over the past eight years that has driven economic growth, created local jobs and helped the region to prosper.

“This year’s Budget continues to invest in the future of Central Australia and delivers key projects that will secure and create jobs in the region.

“This includes $32 million to upgrade key roads to support Central Australia’s growing mining and resources industries as well as improve access to remote communities.

“Budget 2010 invests in Working Future, funding better services and supporting economic development for Indigenous Territorians.”

RECORD INVESTMENT IN HEALTH

Budget 2010 delivers record funding of $38 million to upgrade Alice Springs Hospital and $19.6 million for a new emergency department.

Mr Hampton said the Henderson Government is delivering $147.7 million for acute care services including patient travel, road and aero retrieval transport services.

A further $71.5 million is being provided for non-acute health and community services in the region.
“The Henderson Government recognises that Alice Springs Hospital a major hospital servicing a very isolated part of Australia and as a result must deliver a broad range of services,” Mr Hampton said.

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.

Mr Hampton said $6.42 million will deliver an upgrade to Centralian Middle School as well as establish a Youth hub at Anzac Hill to support the Alice Springs Youth Plan.

The Acacia School will receive $2.8 million to upgrade special school infrastructure while Ntaria School will receive a $1.25 million upgrade.

$33.4 million is being provided for non-government schools in Central Australia.

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

“This year’s Budget provides $300,000 for 21 schools across the Territory including Bradshaw and Braitling primary schools.”

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Budget 2010 continues the Henderson Government’s focus to reduce anti-social behaviour with $3.47 million for Stage two of the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan.

“This builds on existing initiatives getting young people in Alice Springs away from anti-social and criminal activities and back to school,” Mr Hampton said.

The plan includes:

- $1.5 million to run two supported group homes for 12 young people
- $1.1 million to operate the youth hub and provide an alternative education program for youth with extreme behaviour
- $625,000 to provide an after hours response to youth on the street
- $250,000 to boost resources in schools to tackle disengaged students.

Mr Hampton said the Henderson Government will be strengthening the Alcohol Court and providing it with greater powers 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.

A $10 million will fast track headworks at the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) site in Alice Springs for the new suburb of Kilgariff to connect essential power, water and sewerage services to make blocks available to the public sooner.

The Alice Springs Transformation Plan continues with $17.5 million in Budget 2010. This includes $2.7 million to operate five new supported and short term accommodation in Alice Springs including:

- Percy Village Transitional Village to house up to 70 people;
- Bath Street Lodge to house up to 40 visiting renal dialysis patients;
- Eight single units in Goyder Street; and
- Alice Springs Accommodation Park to house up to 150 people.

Budget 2010 provides $5.6 million to construction the Larapinta Seniors Village in Alice Springs.

“The new villages provide more housing options for senior Territory Housing tenants and helps to free up larger houses for younger families,” Mr Hampton 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 Alice Springs from $300,000 to $385,000 – an $85,000 increase.
INFRASTRUCTURE

The Henderson Government is providing $32 million in Budget 2010 to upgrade roads in Central Australia.

“These projects will improve access to remote communities as well as support the pastoral and mining industries by ensuring roads remain open longer during the wet season,” he said.

The upgrades include:

- $2 million to seal seven kilometres of the Sandover Highway
- $2 million to continue sealing a further 4 kilometres of the Tanami Road.

MORE JOBS AND TRAINING

Budget 2010 continues the Henderson Government’s record investment to get more Territorians into a job or training including $15.48 million for vocational education and training to be delivered by Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other service providers.

WORKING FUTURE

The Budget delivers $32.2 million for land servicing and essential service infrastructure in Territory Growth Towns in Central Australia.

As part of Working Future $9.4 million is provided for a new multi-purpose police station and office accommodation in Imanpa.

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