Gearing up for Growth in Palmerston and Litchfield

Budget 2012 is delivering for families in Palmerston and Litchfield, with continued investment in health, education, infrastructure and a range of initiatives to help this dynamic region gear up for growth while supporting affordable living.

Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, said Budget 2012 continued the Government’s commitment to the Territory’s fastest growing region.

“Palmerston and Litchfield are dynamic communities set to directly benefit from the huge economic growth the Territory will experience as a flow on from projects such as the Ichthys LNG project and the Marine Supply Base,” Mr Henderson said.

“With the building of the Palmerston Hospital set to start in the next financial year, Budget 2012 delivers record health funding for the people of Palmerston and Litchfield by supporting families through affordable and quality health services.”

Member for Daly Rob Knight said Budget 2012 was also delivering for families in the region through continued investment in key infrastructure.

“One million dollars from Budget 2012 will be spent on head works for the new Litchfield Pool, $2.75 million will be spent to build a new special education centre at Taminmin College and $1.29 million will be used to upgrade and seal another 6km of Litchfield Road,” Mr Knight said.

The most generous homeowner concessions in Australia

Budget 2012 helps more Territorians achieve their dream of home ownership with the best homeowners’ concessions in the nation, including grants, stamp duty concessions and Territory Government home loans through Homestart NT.

- Budget 2012 extends the BuildBonus scheme providing a $10 000 grant to all homebuyers purchasing or building a new home up to the value of $600 000. The scheme has been extended by six months to 30 June 2012;
Budget 2012 continues the successful ‘HOMESTART’ scheme which has seen more than 1500 low to middle income earners into their own homes since 1 July 2004;

generous stamp duty concessions continue, with first homebuyers receiving an exemption on the first $540 000 of the value of their home – a saving of up to $26 730;
a $3500 principal place of residence rebate for non-first homebuyers; and
a concession of $8500 to assist senior Territorians and Pensioner and Carer Concession Card holders to downsize or buy a home.

Subsidies to keep household costs down

In Budget 2012, the Territory Government continues to keep costs down for families, with:

$63.08 million to subsidise the cost of electricity, water and sewerage for Territory households and $0.12 million to provide Energy Smart Rebates, giving Territorians the second cheapest power in Australia;
The only child care subsidy in Australia, a $4.3m investment saving parents up to $1433 per year for full-time care;
$20.66 million for the nation’s most generous Pensioner Concession Scheme, a $4.57 million boost, delivering subsidies on electricity, water, sewerage, spectacles, motor vehicle registration, council property rates and garbage rates, and free urban bus travel, licence renewals and interstate travel to eligible pensioners, seniors, carers and veterans;
Apprentices and trainees can also access the $1.3 million WorkWear/WorkGear Bonus scheme that provides a $1000 grant to trade apprentices undertaking training in skill shortage occupations and $300 to all other eligible apprentices and trainees to help with the costs of tools and study materials; and
$12.73 million to support Territorians with a disability through Individual Support Packages in addition to other subsidies including taxis.

Supporting Business

$3.84m to facilitate major economic development projects including the Ichthys LNG project and the Marine Supply Base;

$890,000 to increase productivity, sustainability and market opportunities for the tropical fruit and vegetable industries;
• $690,000m to support plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases;

• $540,000 to increase productivity, sustainability and market opportunities for the mango industry;

• $310,000 increase sustainability development and market opportunities for the amenity horticulture and lifestyle industries;

• $210,000 to operate the Coastal Plains research farm; and

• $90,000 to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases.

Jobs and Training

• $6.47m for Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other providers to deliver qualifications to Territorians to develop new skills or build on existing skills that leads to employment.

Safer Communities

• $51.8m for safe and secure custodial services at Darwin Correctional Centre;

• $15.15m to provide police, fire and emergency services in the Palmerston and Litchfield region including a Police Beat office, two police stations, two fire stations and seven volunteer groups (fire and emergency);

• $6.08m for safe and secure juvenile detention at the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre, including a range of rehabilitation services;

• $2.45m to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community-based clients in the Palmerston region in line with sentences and orders issued by the courts and the Parole Board; and

• $1.52m for Sex Offender Treatment, Indigenous Family Violence and Elders programs for rehabilitation of Indigenous offenders, and Remote Communities Corrections Officers programs.

Better Schooling

• $73.33m for primary school education in government and non-government schools;

• $34.56m for middle years education in government and non-government schools;

• $23.13m for senior years education and Vocational Education and Training in Schools in government and non-government schools;
• $8.99m for the provision of school buses and special needs transport for students;
• $8.75m for preschool education in government and non-government schools;
• $3.03m for early childhood programs including Families as First Teachers;
• $1.16m for isolated student education through distance education;
• $610,000 to provide back to school vouchers of $75 per student; and
• $250,000 to expand enrolment and attendance initiatives, with eight more attendance and truancy officers.

Better Health
• $3.59 m for non-acute health and community services in the region; and
• $10.3 m to commence construction of the $110 m Palmerston Hospital.

Community Development
• $19m for HOMESTART NT scheme to assist low to middle-income earners to purchase a home; and
• $8.4m to manage urban public housing and services including tenancy support.

Lifestyle and Environment
• $6.2m for the Territory Wildlife Park;
• $2.3m to operate the new Palmerston Water Park;
• $500,000 for infrastructure works at Freds Pass Reserve;
• $400,000 to manage and maintain sporting and other infrastructure at Freds Pass Reserve; and
• $250,000 to upgrade existing toilet facilities and construct change rooms at Buley Rockhole, Litchfield National Park.

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