Media Release

Gearing Up for Growth – Supporting Territory Families

Budget 2012 driving growth in the Top End region

Budget 2012 invests heavily in a Working Future for Territorians living in the Top End region.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to delivering local jobs and opportunities for business through investing in key infrastructure to continue growth in the Top End regions,” Minister for Regional Development Malarndirri McCarthy said today.

“The 2012 Budget supports top end businesses through investment in roads, vocational training and key education infrastructure.”

Member for Daly Rob Knight said today Budget 2012 delivers the goods for those Territorians who want to live, work and raise their families in Top End regional areas.

“The 2012 Budget invests in a working future through infrastructure, health, education and job creation in the bush to build the future for Indigenous Territorians,” Mr Knight said.

“Territorians who choose to live and work in NT regional areas should have access to the best possible education, services and infrastructure and be afforded the same opportunities as urban-living Territorians.

“Through investment in infrastructure such as $8.26 million for upgrades to the Port Keats Road and $2.85 million for new vocational training facilities at Gunbalunya and Jabiru Schools, Budget 2012 delivers for people in the Top End rural regions.”

Minister for Primary Industry, Kon Vatskalis, said the Territory Government continued to invest in business in the region.

“Budget 2012 continues the Territory Government's record of supporting our vital agriculture by investing in research and development to improve productivity, sustainability and market opportunities.”
Infrastructure Highlights

Budget 2012 delivers more than $22 million for better infrastructure in the Top End region, including:

- $4.19M to strengthen and widen targeted sections of the Arnhem Highway
- $3.57M to upgrade and seal selected stream crossings on Fog Bay Road
- 8.26 million for upgrades to the Port Keats Road; and
- $370,000 for various minor school infrastructure upgrades.

Supporting Business

- $890,000 to operate the Douglas Daly Research Farm;
- $810,000 to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases;
- $410,000 to increase the uptake of sustainable cropping practices for current and new agricultural enterprises;
- $400,000 to upgrade facilities and for operational costs at Beatrice Hill Farm;
- $300,000 to provide new generation geoscience data and to promote investment under Bringing Forward Discovery;
- $260,000 for technical advice on improved pasture management and cattle production;
- $210,000 for research to improve buffalo genetics and reproduction to increase performance;
- $170,000 to enhance hardwood forestry opportunities for the semi-arid tropics;
- $100,000 to increase productivity, sustainability and market opportunities for the tropical fruit and vegetable industries;
- $80,000 to support plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases; and
- $60,000 to increase productivity, sustainability and market opportunities for the mango industry.

Jobs and Training

- $5.39m for Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other providers to deliver qualifications to Territorians to develop new skills or to build on existing skills that leads to employment; and
- $100,000 in Territory and Commonwealth funds for the Indigenous Training Employment Program to support employment for Indigenous Territorians of working age in regional and remote communities.

Safer Communities

- $10.05m to provide police, fire and emergency services in the Top End Rural region including nine police stations, one fire station and nine volunteer fire fighting groups
- $410,000 for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities, including Wadeye, Daly River and Jabiru. Registry services are provided through the Magistrates Court in Darwin; and
• $380,000M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community-based clients in the Wadeye, Jabiru and Tiwi Islands regions in line with sentences and orders issued by the courts and the Parole Board

Better Schooling
• $26.43m for primary school education in government and non-government schools;
• $9.06m for middle years education in government and non-government schools;
• $7.06m for senior years education and Vocational Education and Training in Schools
• $3.6m for the provision of school buses and special needs transport for students;
• $2.48m for preschool education in government and non-government schools including $1.04m for early childhood programs including Families as First Teachers;
• $620,000 for isolated student education through distance education; and
• $180,000 to provide back to school vouchers of $75 per student

Working Future
• $2.85m for new VET training facilities at Gunbalunya and Jabiru schools
• $2m to upgrade the Wurrumiyanga barge landing; and
• $980,000 to continue upgrades at the Pirlangimpi Health Centre including upgrades to consultation rooms, emergency room and handicap compliant access.

Better Health
• $62.57m for non-acute health and community services in the region; and
• $350,000 to construct a volunteer first aid post at Dundee Beach

Community Development
• $300,000 for government employee housing and services; and
• $300,000 to manage urban public housing and services including tenancy support

Lifestyle and Environment
• $1.47m for site maintenance activities, environmental monitoring programs and studies to develop an improved rehabilitation plan for the former Rum Jungle mine site;
• $730,000 to monitor surface and groundwater to enable the assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management;
• $700,000 to rehabilitate and protect Mary River freshwater wetlands;
• $510,000 to manage Crown land including weeds and associated buildings; and
• $120,000 for the Marine Ranger Program including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of illegal fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education

Media: Ursula Raymond: 0457 825 507 (McCarthy)
Maria Billias: 0401 119 746 (Vatskalis)
Mark Wilton 0405 990 666 (Knight)