MEMBER FOR KATHERINE

KATHERINE BUDGET OVERVIEW

14 May 2013

The Country Liberals Government is putting Katherine back on the map in Budget 2013.

Katherine is the regional centre for many smaller communities. It serves as a business, services and cultural hub for a large portion of the Northern Territory.

Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe, said that Budget 2013 had some great news in it for the entire Katherine Region.

"Katherine is hugely important for the economic future of the Northern Territory," Mr Westra van Holthe said.

"Unfortunately, like many places outside of Darwin, Katherine was neglected by Delia Lawrie’s former Government."

Key items for the Katherine Region in Budget 2013 include:

- $500,000 for the installation of Closed Circuit Televisions cameras.
- $6.5 million to continue construction of overtaking opportunities at selected sections of the Stuart highway between Darwin and Katherine.
- Funding for infrastructure at Venndale Rehabilitation Centre associated with the mandatory rehabilitation of problem drinkers.
- $250,000 for improvements to store facilities at the Katherine Hospital.
- Funding to increase the number of nurses and administrative staff to support the health screening of detainees in the Katherine Police Station.
- $500,000 to support the operation of Katherine’s Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre.
- $240,000 for two additional Weeds Management Officers to be based in Katherine.

“Along with recent announcements around land release in Katherine I am really excited about the future of our town and regional area,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“These Katherine specific announcements are complemented by a host of other announcements the Government has made.

“With the Katherine to Gove gas pipeline and mining projects in the Katherine region coming online it is good to know that Katherine small businesses will be able to take advantage of Budget 2013’s ‘Territory Business Growth’ grants and the boost to the ecoBiz NT program.

“The Country Liberals Government is taking responsible action for Katherine and the entire Northern Territory.”

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