Treasurer David Tollner said Budget 2013 will see Darwin play a key role in developing and strengthening the future of the Northern Territory.

"The Country Liberals Government understands the need to invest in the Top End to support a growing economy, business and population," Mr Tollner said.

"Budget 2013-14 aims to develop Darwin to allow it to reach its full potential, while taking responsible action due to the difficult fiscal situation left behind by the previous Labor Government.

"The Northern Territory's capital city is full of development and growth potential and it is important to properly plan for the future with responsible spending.

"The Country Liberals Government is investing in the Northern Territory's health system with funding to improve services in this sector.

"By investing in the Territory's health system now, we are investing in a healthier community for the future.

"The Northern Territory Government will continue to invest in schools and training to provide school students with the best possible start in life.

"Investing in education and training allows people the opportunity to learn the skills and knowledge for their future.

"Extra funding for police, fire and emergency is targeted at creating a safer community for all Territorians.

"Reducing crime and increasing community safety remains a top priority of the Country Liberals Government.

"This Government aims to increase business in the Northern Territory and reduce red tape with local business operators set to benefit with increased services offering advice and licence information.

"Funding has been made available to promote the Territory as a visitor destination, boosting the local economy and providing increased jobs in the tourism sector.

"The Country Liberals understands the need to accommodate a growing population across the Top End by planning for increased infrastructure and development.

"By properly planning for Darwin’s predicted growth, we are securing it for the future."
“The Northern Territory Government is committed to enhancing the Top End lifestyle through a range of funding initiatives.

“This year’s budget reflects the importance of the iconic Top End lifestyle with Darwin locals experiencing all it has to offer,” Mr Tollner said.

Healthier Communities

- $575 million – Funding for Top End Health and Hospital Services include the Royal Darwin Hospital, Gove District and Katherine hospitals;
- $35 million – Delivering effective treatments for problem drunks through the Government’s Mandatory Rehabilitation. Up to 800 problem drinkers will receive mandatory alcohol treatment at centres in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy;
- $16 million - The Royal Darwin Hospital will be better equipped to treat emergency patients with funding to increase the number of beds in the Emergency Department and Short Stay Unit. Part of this funding will be used for two additional operating theatres;
- $7.26 million – Cancer patients in the Northern Territory will also benefit with funding towards cancer treatment and accommodation for cancer patients;
- $6.5 million - Cardiac services in the Territory will receive a cash injection in line with the Country Liberals Government 2012 election commitment;
- $4.46 million - Additional funding for 400 elective surgeries per annum across the Territory; and
- $300 000 – Funding for the refurbishment of old birthing rooms and operating theatres at the Royal Darwin Hospital to provide additional consulting rooms.

Better Education

- $141.6 million – Investing in the future through funding primary school education in government and non-government schools;
- $67.2 million – Preparing middle school children for their senior years with funding education funding for middle years in government and non-government schools;
- $63.7 million – Senior years education and Vocational Education and Training will receive funding for government and non-government schools;
- $28.45 million – Opportunities will be provided with funding to develop qualifications and new skills in Darwin. This is jointly funded by the Territory and Commonwealth Governments and will be delivered by Charles Darwin University and Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other providers;
- $10.36 million – Funding for school buses and special needs transport for students;
- $9.6 million – Funding for tertiary education in government schools;
- $6.6 million – Assisting parents with the costs associated with having their child in school with funding for the Back to School vouchers of $150; and
- $6.2 million – Funding will assist schools and school councils across the Territory meet costs arising from utility price increases;
- $3.07 million – Funding will go towards up-skilling Territory workers and provide access to qualifications for job seekers under the National Partnership Agreement of Productivity Places Program;
- $1 million – Darwin Middle School will be funded for an arts and manual arts space;
- $500 000 – Upgrades to Block B at Darwin High School;
$500 000 – Larrakeya Primary School will receive funding to provide additional and flexible learning space;
$500,000 - Exposing students to our international environment through international education in government schools; and
$200 000 – Funding for Karama Primary School to fence the preschool outdoor area and upgrade toilets.

Safer Communities

$249.5 million – Police Fire and Emergency Services will receive a funding boost to provide services in the Darwin region including two police stations, three fire station, one volunteer group (fire and emergency) and police college and forensic laboratory;
$22.5 million – Increased community safety with funding for the recruitment of an additional 120 police across the Territory;
$3.4 million - Funding to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community-based clients in the Darwin and Casuarina regions in line with sentences and orders issued by the Courts and Parole Board;
$1.5 million – Expansion of the Joint Emergency Services Communication Centre at the Peter McAulay Centre will allow for increased capabilities in the event of an emergency; and
$1 million – Funding will go towards establishing a stand-alone Youth Justice Court in Darwin;

Business Growth

$15 million - Tourism is one of the largest industries in the Northern Territory and provides hundreds of jobs to Top End locals. Funding will be used to expand international marketing activities to stimulate the tourism market and promote the Territory as a leisure destination.
$1.2 million – Territory Businesses can receive advice and licence information through the Territory Business Centre;
$1 million – Funding will be used to support business growth across the Territory through professional advice and mentoring for planning, environmental management, technology, employment practices and tourism development;
$790 000 – Increased marketing and industry engagement activities to promote Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine and Arnhem Land will be driven with funding for the Tourism Top End visitor information services in Darwin; and
$490 000 - Funding will assist Territory Businesses to improve their energy efficiency through the ecoBiz scheme; and
$320 000 – Funding for the Business Enterprise Centre will assist Territorians to succeed in setting up a new business.

Future Planning

$295 million – Funding to upgrade, deliver and maintain power, water and sewerage infrastructure across the Northern Territory;
$287 million – Spending on infrastructure for Territory roads and national highways;
$16 million - Motorists can expect better traffic flows on Tiger Brennan Drive, between Darwin CBD to Berrimah, with funding allocated towards the duplication of the stretch of road;

$5 million – Grant funding to City of Darwin for the duplication of Lee Point Road;

$2.2 million - The Darwin Waterfront Precinct will continue to develop with the continuation of preparatory works for stage 2;

$1.6 million - Seven one and two-bedroom units will be constructed in the Northern Suburbs with funding allocated towards the project;

$1.04 million - Funding will see two of Darwin’s newest suburbs, Lyons and Muirhead, receive a new scheduled public bus service along with other new suburbs across the Territory; and

$500 000 - Funding for the construction of car parks at the Royal Darwin Hospital campus.

Iconic Darwin Lifestyle

$14.7 million - To further stimulate and assist horseracing across the Territory, the thoroughbred racing industry will receive funding for conducting race meetings and the maintenance of facilities. Horseracing carnivals in Darwin are a highly anticipated event on the social calendar and provides a welcomed financial injection into the Territory economy each year;

$8.2 million - Major Events including BassintheGrass and Superbikes will continue to provide Top End locals with entertainment throughout the year. Funding to support the events will provide a boost to the Territory economy and increase its positioning as a visitor destination;

$9.6 million - Peak sporting bodies, active recreational organisations and programs will receive funding; including $200,000 for NT Thunder and $50,000 to NT Strike to compete in interstate competitions;

$5.3 million - Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex will receive an upgrade with the resurfacing of the track. The complex hosts several high profile sporting events including the V8 Supercars Championship;

$4 million - Registered school children will again benefit from the Sport Voucher Scheme. This funding will see each child receive a $75 voucher to be redeemed at eligible sports clubs and organisations;

$2.1 million - Funding for operating costs of the Lake Leanyer Recreational Park will allow families to continue to enjoy the water park for free in the Northern Suburbs;

$1.35 million – Cycling and walking tracks across the Territory will be introduced or receive upgrades including at Casuarina Coastal Reserve and George Brown Botanic Gardens;

$1.32 million - A funding commitment will ensure Australian Football League matches will return to the Territory along with community engagement programs;

$1 million – Funding for the Darwin Festival; and

$5 000 – Funding for Fishing Awards for amateur fishing.

Media Contact:
Georgia McCabe 0438 384 506