MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

RESPONSIBLE LIFESTYLE DECISIONS FOR THE CENTRE

14 May 2013

Minister for Central Australia, Matt Conlan, said Budget 2013 will provide improved sport and recreation facilities while making sport more affordable for Centralians.

“Central Australia was seriously neglected by Delia Lawrie’s former Labor Government,” said Mr Conlan.

“The way we spend our free time in the regions is the envy of many Australians and by investing in our lifestyle the Country Liberals Government is showing a strong commitment to ensure our way of life is preserved and made even better.”

LIFESTYLE

- $150,000 to develop a series of graded mountain bike tracks at the Station for beginners, intermediate and advanced.
- $500,000 for upgrades to Alice Springs drag strip to support hosting national and regional motor sporting events.

This is in addition to election commitments to upgrade Anzac Oval- $2.5 million, The Alice Springs Go Kart Facility- $45,000 and the Alice Springs Golf Club- $250,000 already delivered in last year’s Mini Budget.

“The Country Liberals Government is investing in Central Australian sporting facilities because sport brings communities together, improves health and helps lower crime by getting kids active and off the streets.” Mr Conlan said.

GROWING SPORT AT THE GRASSROOTS

- $4 million for the Sports Voucher scheme, to ensure all young Territorians have access to sporting activities
- $1.75 million increase in grants to Peak Sporting Bodies
- $1 million for sport and recreation programs in remote communities
- $200 000 to support NT Thunder football team
- $75 000 to support the Central Australian Redtails Football Club should AFLNT decide it is to be included in the 2013-14 NTFL season.
- $50 000 for the NT Strike cricket team to play in the new South Australian Premier League
SUPPORT FOR MAJOR EVENTS

The Northern Territory Government will provide $8.2 million to bring the big name entertainment and sporting events to the Territory, where Territorians get value for money.

- $50,000 for Imparja Cup Cricket Carnival in Alice Springs.
- $58,000 for Finke Desert Race
- $708,000 million for preliminary activity and promotion in the lead up to the Alice Springs Masters Games in 2014.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

A healthy arts and culture sector is important to the Country Liberals Government’s plans to grow our tourism industry and build a bigger economy.

- $100,000 to upgrade cinema systems at the Araluen Arts Centre.

ENHANCING OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKS

The Territory Government is taking responsible action to ensure our Parks and reserves are adequately maintained and able to be used by all Territorians for many years to come.

- $450,000 for upgrades to Alice Springs Desert Park including $120 000 to seal walking paths used on nocturnal tours; $230 000 to provide toilets at the Nature Theatre; $100 000 for a dingo enclosure to all patrons to see a dingo ‘up close’.
- $160,000 to help with operational costs of Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
- $230,000 in conservation work at Alice Springs Telegraph Station
- $400k for water main upgrade at the station.

“Central Australia was ignored by Delia Lawrie’s former Government and the Country Liberals have now abolished the Berrimah line and also have responsible spending plans for the Centre to grow the southern regions,” said Mr Conlan.

“The previous Labor Government left the Territory with a trend of unsustainable spending growth and escalating debt with no plan to address the deteriorating budget position.

“This Budget builds on measures announced last year to put the Territory’s finances back onto a sustainable path through responsible decisions on spending.”

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