MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

RESPONSIBLE ACTION FOR THE CENTRE

14 May 2013

Minister for Central Australia, Matt Conlan, says Budget 2013 will provide widespread responsible spending in Central Australia to benefit the entire region after years of neglect.

“Budget 2013 delivers a responsible plan to drive economic growth, safer streets, generate jobs, deliver infrastructure and improve services for all Centralians,” Mr Conlan said.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to investing in our towns and growing our regional areas to create new prosperity, more opportunities and a better quality lifestyle.”

HEALTH AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

Budget 2013 provides new and upgraded health infrastructure and facilities in remote communities to stimulate regional development. Under Delia Lawrie and Labor these funding areas were neglected year after year.

- Share of $35 million per annum operational and $10 million capital to deliver Governments initiative of Mandatory Rehabilitation for problem drinkers.
- $21 million for continuing fire protection, air-conditioning and remediation works at the Alice Springs Hospital.
- $1.95 million for enhanced cardiac outreach and rehabilitation services
- $1.59 million to provide an additional 142 elective surgery procedures per annum
- $2.48 million to review the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme
- $5.9 million in additional funding to meet costs associated with increased levels of demand for health services
- $5.51 million additional funding for operational expenses for the Alice Springs Hospital emergency Department
- $5.3 million for construction of a new health clinic at Canteen Creek.
- $1.93 million to increase secure care facilities in Alice Springs.
- $450,000 to upgrade the nurses’ quarters fire systems at the Alice Springs Hospital.
- Share of $330,000 to implement recommendations of the Youth Suicide Report.
- $240,000 to provide additional consultation space at the Ti Tree Health Centre
- Additional funding for increased shifts for nurses in Police Watchhouses
- $0.94 million to Bushmob Youth Residential Rehabilitation Service in Alice Springs for relocation and service expansion.

POLICING

The NT Government is taking responsible action on community safety with additional front line police officers in Central Australia and increased resources to strengthen community safety.

- $2.5 million for the recruitment and training of an additional 20 officers in Alice Springs with recurrent funding of approximately $4.5 million ongoing.
- $10.9 million to expand policing facilities in Alice Springs.
$9.4 million to construct a multi-purpose police station and accommodation at Arlparra. This multi-purpose station will include residential housing and visiting officers’ quarters, a communication tower and storage sheds.

More than $650,000 for operational and staffing of the Alice Springs Police Station on a 24 hours a day, seven days a week basis including the front counter within the Alice Springs Police Station to be staffed 24/7 with an extra six positions included in the budget.

**STRENGTHENING CORRECTIONS**
Unlike Delia Lawrie’s former Government, the Country Liberals are investing in corrections infrastructure, resources to manage rising prisoner numbers and provide additional support for the rehabilitation of adult prisoners.

- $5 million for increased court capacity in Alice Springs.
- $3.09 million to be spent on upgrades at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre to provide for the Sentenced to a Job program.
- $2.4 million to manage rising prison numbers in Darwin and Alice Springs correctional centre.
- $670,000 for the Alice Springs Juvenile Detention Centre.
- $500,000 for additional prison work crews in Alice Springs and Darwin.

**TRANSPORT**
We will deliver Safety and better access to the regions for tourists. Delia Lawrie’s former Government lost their way with transport spending in the Centre, we are fixing that.

- $13 million for construction of a grade separated overpass on the Stuart Hwy over the railway, south of Alice Springs.
- $5 million for the continuation of the upgrade and seal of targeted sections on the Tanami Road.
- $2.5 million to upgrade and seal the existing airstrip at Kaltukatjara.

**EDUCATION**
Budget 2013 is investing in education through improving school infrastructure and providing families with financial and educational assistance.

- $2.5 million to upgrade and transition the Alice Springs Youth Centre into a Police and Citizen Youth Club.
- $158,000 per annum to provide a new, special needs student transport bus in Alice Springs.
- The Centre will receive a share of $54.6 million for repairs and maintenance of schools across the Territory and minor works, including: repairs of ageing assets needing major mechanical works, plumbing and roofing projects.
- An additional $3.3 million to increase School Vouchers from $75 per student to $150 per student, to assist families with back-to-school expenses.

**TOURISM**
The Country Liberals have moved the NT Tourism headquarters to Alice Springs in a move welcomed by industry and commerce.
The past 11 years has seen the tourism industry in the NT show outstanding resilience despite Delia Lawrie’s former Government taking their eyes of the ball.

The Territory is a great place to holiday and the NT Government is investing in plans and strategies to drive tourism forward.

- $8 million boost for tourism from 2012-13, providing a total of $15 million to extend the Territory’s international marketing activities.
- $250,000 for a dedicated Alice Springs marketing campaign highlighting experiences and products in the region.
- Adopting innovative visitor servicing technology at key NT gateways including delivery of a new state-of-the-art visitor service centre located in the Todd Street Mall, Alice Springs, to be operated by Tourism Central Australia.
- Appointment of a dedicated research officer to work with the Alice Springs and Darwin Convention Centres to develop business case submissions for suitable event opportunities.

LIFESTYLE
Minister for Central Australia, Matt Conlan says Budget 2013 will provide improved sport and recreation facilities while making sport more affordable for all Territorians no matter where they live.

- $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.

GROWING SPORT AT THE GRASSROOTS
The Country Liberals Government is growing sport at the grassroots because sport brings communities together, improves health and helps lower crime by getting kids active and off the streets.

- $4 million for the Sports Voucher scheme, to ensure all young Territorians have access to sporting activities.
- $1.75 million to provide 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.
- $50,000 for Imparja Cup Cricket Carnival in Alice Springs.
- $58,000 for Finke Desert Race.
- $710,000 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 for 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.
- $400,000 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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