MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

CONNECTING TERRITORIANS TO A BETTER FUTURE

13 May 2014

The Giles Government is focussed on connecting Territorians, committing $408.1 million towards the Territory’s roads, national highways and transport assets in the 2014 budget.

Minister for Transport Peter Styles said the Territory had a vast road network and it was vital these roads were upgraded, maintained and made safe to use for all motorists.

“Our government is focussed on developing the north and with increased traffic from new developments, growth in tourism and increasing demand of heavy vehicles from the resource, agricultural and pastoral sectors, we need to ensure our roads are adequate to meet this growing traffic demand,” Mr Styles said.

“We are continuing to connect the bush by delivering vital transport and infrastructure assets and focus on the future.

“Our government has committed $8 million as a major investment in rural arterial roads across the Territory, for works on the Carpentaria, Arnhem, Tanami, Tablelands and Lasseter Highways,” he said.

The Territory Government is also investing $4 million in rural secondary roads with works on the Ross Highway and Namatjira Drive and also the Roper Highway.

In addition this Government will invest in urban arterial roads with $5 million for works on Vanderlin Drive, Bagot Road, the Stuart Highway and Larapinta Drive.

“Regional roads in the Katherine area will also benefit with an investment of $2.75 million.

Mr Styles said improved access to remote and regional areas was vital to connect all Territorians to major services and promote better opportunities for business growth and development.

“This will be helped with $30 million allocated towards the upgrade of strategic economic development roads as well as $2.5 million towards upgrading the Lajamanu access road.

“Our budget will see $800,000 committed to continuing the Tiwi Islands ferry service, $500,000 towards the development of a medium to large vessel pontoon at Melville Bay in Nhulunbuy and $1.5 million towards a barge landing in Maningrida,” Mr Styles said.

“This government is also investing $2.5 million to significantly upgrade the Canteen Creek Airstrip, which will improve the capacity for medical evacuation and improve the safety of all air operations.”
The 2014 budget also includes:

- Joint Territory and Commonwealth Government investment of $7.3 million to improve the Outback Way;
- $5 million to upgrade regional roads across the Territory as part of the NT Government’s $16 million contribution to the $106 million Territory and Commonwealth governments’ Regional Roads Productivity Package;
- $3 million to upgrade the Larapinta Drive/Lovegrove Drive intersection;
- $1 million for cycle path upgrades;
- $5 million towards a local road traffic management program; and
- $27 million to continue the duplication of Tiger Brennan Drive as part of the Territory’s $33 million contribution to the $103 million Territory and Commonwealth governments’ project.

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