The Government today announced the largest investment in Territory infrastructure since self-government.

The total infrastructure investment approved in the Budget is $432 million for capital works ($312.7 million) and repairs and maintenance ($119.2 million).

When PowerWater’s program of capital expenditure and repairs and maintenance was included, the total was $513 million.

Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Minister Kon Vatskalis said the investment would provide a massive boost to the construction industry and small business in the Territory.

“This program will provide a significant boost to business across the Territory and was evidence of a Government that made decisions today will investing for tomorrow.

"The Government understands the pressures that have faced the Territory’s construction industry in particular over the past two years and has responded with a massive stimulus package.

"The program will target roads, hospitals, schools, power equipment, public housing and key infrastructure throughout the Territory."

The highlights include:

- $92 million for public housing
- About $90 million on roadworks program and roads repairs and maintenance.
- $58 million to on-going work at East Arm Port
- $13.5 million towards the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway
- $10 million for construction, upgrade and replacement of schools
- $14.4 million on Royal Darwin Hospital redevelopment
- $5 million for hospital and other health facilities in regional and remote areas
- $16 million for new works and maintenance on Territory roads and highways
- $17.3 million upgrade of essential services in remote communities
- $7 million to redevelop major sporting and recreational facilities
- $11 million to construct power and water supply infrastructure at Wickham Point
- $24.3 million for minor new works program, an increase of $5.2 million
- $4 million to seal runways in Pirlangimpi, Kalkarindji, Lajamanu, Kintore and Gapuwiyak.

“This Budget is about boosting job creation and business confidence and will see the largest capital works cash expenditure the Territory has ever seen with an increase of over $40 million in actual cash compared to last year going into the economy.

"We have achieved this cash boost at a time of fiscal restraint caused by...
the large budget deficit that we inherited.

"It will immediately mean more jobs, and in the long term important infrastructure will be put into place that will benefit the development of our community as a whole."

Other highlights include:

- $800,000 to the redevelopment of Leanyer Recreation Park.
- $350,000 to improve facilities at Nitmiluk National Park.

Mr Vatskalis said one of the key strategic drivers was to ensure that the smaller contractors also got a bite of the capital works cherry.