Territory Government Ministers will hold a series of briefings on Budget 2004 throughout the Territory this week.

Treasurer Syd Stirling said the briefings were an opportunity for Territorians to hear first-hand about the budget and how it will affect their regions or industry.

“Budget 2004 moves the Territory ahead by delivering record tax cuts and the highest infrastructure spend in the Territory's history, while building on our great lifestyle,” Mr Stirling said.

“It contains a number of significant tax cuts that will make the Territory the lowest taxing jurisdiction in Australia for small business, providing a boost to business operators throughout the Territory.

“The Budget also contains a $441 million infrastructure spend – the highest- ever by any Territory government – and a significant portion of that spending will occur in regional areas which will again benefit local businesses and communities.

“The Budget briefings will outline how tax cuts and infrastructure spending will create new jobs and boost economic growth throughout the Territory.”

Mr Stirling said briefings this week would be held in Alice Springs, Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy, while the Chief Minister will brief the Top End tourism industry.

Details are as follows:

**Alice Springs Briefing:** 7am, Tuesday 25 May, Madigans, Alice Springs Desert Park – Treasurer Syd Stirling and Minister for Central Australia Peter Toyne to brief business, tourism and other industry representatives in Alice Springs. Organised with the assistance of the NT Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**Tourism Briefing:** 6.30pm, Tuesday 25 May, Strangers Lounge, Parliament House – Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism Clare Martin to brief tourism industry representatives. Hosted by Top End Tourism.

**Palmerston Briefing:** 6.30pm, Tuesday 25 May, Palmerston Golf Club – Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Housing John Ah Kit to brief members of the Palmerston Regional Business Association.

**Katherine Briefing:** 12.30pm, Wednesday 26 May, Katherine RSL Club – Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries; Mines and Energy; and Ethnic Affairs Kon Vatskalis to brief community members and business and industry representatives.

**Tennant Creek Briefing:** 6pm, Wednesday 26 May, Memorial Club – Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Chris Burns to brief community members and business and industry representatives.

**Nhulunbuy Briefing:** 5pm, Friday 28 May, Arnhem Club – Treasurer and Member for Nhulunbuy Syd Stirling to brief community members and business and industry representatives.