BUDGET 2007 : BUILDING THE FUTURE OF SPORT AND RECREATION

BACKING THE TERRITORY LIFESTYLE

Budget 2007 improves the Territory’s lifestyle through continuing its strong commitment to sport today and into the future.

“Territory sports men and women are highly successful and punch above their weight nationally,” said Sports Minister, Kon Vatskalis.

“Just take a look at our contribution to women’s sport such as softball and hockey, and the number of players we have in the AFL is just amazing,” he said.

“Budget 2007 backs those elite and highly professional athletes, but it also supports those who like to kick the footy around on a Saturday, or the many sports administrators and volunteers that keep local sport happening,” Mr Vatskalis said.

TERRITORY NETBALL A BIG WINNER

Territory netball is a big winner in Budget 2007 with a new stadium set to be built at Mararra Sporting complex.

“At a cost of $4.8 million, the Martin Government will deliver on our election commitment to build this major netball complex,” said Minister Vatskalis.

“This comes on top of our ongoing commitment of $232 000 per year to retain netball as an Institute of Sport supported sport.

“Over 1500 Territory women and girls play netball every weekend and through the week.

“It is a major sport by anyone’s measure and the Martin Government is proud to back it.”
SPORT GRANTS SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Since 2001 the Martin Government has distributed around $31.1 million in sports grants to the Territory community.

Budget 2007 contributes $3.5 million to that total allowing clubs to buy more equipment, improve facilities and assist with their administration.

Grants programs include the following:

- The Facility Development program;
- The Grass Roots Development program;
- The Peak Sport and Recreation Organisation program; and
- The Local Governing Bodies Grants program

NORTHERN TERRITORY INSTITUTE OF SPORT (NTIS) FUNDING

The NTIS will receive $2.4 million in 2007-08.

“This money funds programs designed to foster elite sports in the Territory,” said the Minister.

“It is a collection of programs, advice, services and resources that aim to improve coach and elite athlete performances.”

THOROUGHBRED RACING INDUSTRY

The Martin Government will provide $7.6 million for the ongoing development of thoroughbred racing in the Territory.

These funds will underpin the racing industries in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and rural areas.
WORLD CLASS EVENTS CONTINUE FOR TERRITORIANS

Territorians will continue to enjoy world-class events in their own backyards.

In 11 days, the Arafura Games will take place. Budget 2007 will fund further events in the 2007-08 financial year. These include:

- $1.07 million for the V8 supercars to be held from 22 June to 24 June 2007;
- A National Basketball League match in 2008;
- High quality Australian Football League matches;
- Australian Rugby League match in Alice Springs; and
- A pre-season A-League football match in Darwin

“Sport and recreation is a key part of our unique lifestyle,” said the Minister.

“Territorians are both great participants in sport and recreation and we all love to watch the big games.”

“The Martin Government recognises this with its continued high level of financial support for Territory sport - and Budget 2007 delivers that once again this year.”

“It is about improving the Territory’s unique lifestyle,” Mr Vatskalis said.

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