Budget 2010 Delivering Now for Katherine Families

The Henderson Government continues to invest in the Katherine region with more than $253.3 million to improve schools, hospitals, housing and infrastructure.

The Minister for Regional Development, Malarndirri McCarthy, said Budget 2010 was delivering now for families in Katherine.

“The Henderson Government is delivering now for families in Katherine with record spending to boost hospitals, schools community safety and housing,” Ms McCarthy said.

“Budget 2010 builds on the significant investment by the Henderson Government in Central Australia over the past eight years that has driven economic growth, created local jobs and helped the region to prosper.

“This year’s Budget continues to invest in the future of Katherine and delivers key projects that will secure and create jobs in the region.

“This includes $6 million for a new high level bridge over the Cullen River on the Stuart Highway, $2.84 million to upgrade and expand renal facilities at Katherine District Hospital and $400,000 for the Katherine Main Street Initiative.”

“Budget 2010 invests in Working Future, funding better services and supporting economic development for Indigenous Territorians.”

ROADS BOOST

Budget 2010 delivers $27.7 million for roads in the Katherine region including:

- $1.67 million for the Buntine Highway for maintenance and targeted resealing
- $530,000 for the Central Arnhem Road for maintenance and targeted resealing
- $1 million for the Carpentaria Highway for maintenance and targeted resealing
- $550,000 for the Roper Highway for maintenance and targeted resealing
- $580,000 for the Buchanan Highway for routine maintenance and gravel resheeting
- $4.58 million for various other local roads in the Katherine region.
The Territory Government together with the Federal Government will also contribute $12.6 million for further upgrades including:

- $1.2 million for a new Jasper Creek Bridge along the Buchanan Highway.
- $6 million for a new high level Cullen River Bridge on the Stuart Highway.
- $5 million for additional passing lanes on the Stuart Highway.

The Territory Government will invest $8.91 million for repairs and maintenance and the Australian Government has allocated $5.38 million for the Stuart and Victoria Highways on the National Land Transport Network in the Katherine Region, with $840,000 to be invested in minor new works.

**BETTER HEALTH**

Budget 2010 delivers $28.6 million for Katherine District Hospital, a 102 per cent increase since 2001.

This year’s Budget continues to increase renal facilities ensuring more Territorians can access services closer to home.

Katherine’s renal facility will be expanded with $2.84 million providing an extra eight dialysis stations.

While Borroloola Health Clinic will be upgraded with $800,000 in funding.

**BETTER SCHOOLS**

Budget 2010 provides record funding to build better schools and recruit more teachers including $21.4 million for an extra 170 teachers in remote schools.

Kalkarindji school will receive new and improved facilities under as part of $1.5 million upgrade.

**TAX CUTS TO SUPPORT HOME OWNERSHIP**

Budget 2010 delivers tax cuts that will save first home buyers up to $26,730, senior Territorians $8500 and principal place of residence buyers $3500 when buying a home.

The stamp duty exemption for first home buyers increases from the first $385,000 to $540,000, saving home buyers up to $26,730.

The Henderson Government is introducing a new concession for senior Territorians and Pensioner and Carer Concession Card holders, reducing stamp duty by $8500.

In addition, the principle place of residence rebate has increased from $2500 to $3500.
HOMESTART BOOST

Budget 2010 delivers an increase in the HomeStart NT purchase price caps and income limits, making the scheme accessible to more Territorians.

HomeStart NT lifts the price cap in Katherine from $267,000 to $285,000 – an $18,000 increase.

MORE JOBS AND TRAINING

Budget 2010 continues the Henderson Government’s record investment to get more Territorians into a job or training including $4.73 million for vocational education and training to be delivered by Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other service providers.

WORKING FUTURE

The Budget delivers $23 million for land servicing and essential service infrastructure in Territory Growth Towns in the Katherine region.

As part of Working Future $9.4 million is provided for a new multi-purpose police station and office accommodation at Yarralin.

The Henderson Government is providing $2.5 million to improve upgrade the Yarralin airstrip.

Media Contact: Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507