

### MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE

#### BUDGET 2013 DELIVERS NEW UPGRADES TO ALICE PARKS

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14 May 2013

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Matt Conlan has announced Budget 2013 will deliver more than \$1 million in funding to improve Alice Springs most popular parks and reserves.

“The Territory Government is taking responsible action to ensure our Parks and reserves are adequately maintained,” Mr Conlan said.

“We’re also investing in Central Australia after the region was ignored for years under Delia Lawrie’s former Government.

“This funding to the Alice Springs Desert Park, Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and the Alice Springs Telegraph Station will improve the facilities so locals can enjoy them even more.

“It’s an investment in a better lifestyle for Central Australians but also for tourism in the region with all three parks major attractions for travellers.

“The Country Liberals Government is investing in our tourism industry to increase visitors to the Territory, help local businesses and build a bigger economy.”

Initiatives to improve Alice Springs parks in in 2013-14:

**\$450 000 for the Alice Springs Desert Park including:**

- \$120 000 to upgrade existing walking paths for the Park’s nocturnal tours
- \$230 000 to provide toilets at the Nature Theatre where there are currently none
- \$100 000 to build a dingo enclosure

**\$160 000 for the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens:**

- To assist with the operational costs of the Gardens. The 16 hectare area was first gazetted in 1956 and has become popular with locals and visitors.

**\$400 000 for the Alice Springs Telegraph Station:**

- To upgrade to the water main at the Station. The current water main is subject to frequent failure and this first stage will replace the sections subject to the most frequent breaks which will result in significant water savings for the Station.

**\$150 000 for Alice Springs Telegraph Station to:**

- Develop a series of graded mountain bike tracks at the Station for beginners, intermediate and advanced.

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