

MEDIA RELEASE

NICOLE MANISON
TREASURER

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Treasurer

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN TO SUPPORT TERRITORY JOBS

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Treasurer Nicole Manison today unveiled the Labor Government's new infrastructure priorities which include 37 new and fast-tracked projects to support more local jobs across more Territory industries.

These strategic changes to the former CLP Government's capital works program will see projects worth \$120 million brought forward – including a number of projects to commence this financial year – and other projects deferred over five plus years, rather than the current four years.

Minister Manison said the overall \$1.7 billion infrastructure spend for 2016/17 remains the same, and key projects have been fast-tracked to stimulate a slowing local economy and create jobs.

"We have listened to business and we have made the tough decisions. We have acted decisively to bring forward key projects across the Territory to support jobs right now and into the immediate future," Ms Manison said.

"These strategic investment projects will spread government contracts across a greater range of industries to create jobs in more parts of the economy.

"This is in stark contrast to the CLP's chaotic, lop-sided work program which focussed heavily on some sectors and disregarded others.

"Today the Labor Government is outlining its plan to deliver its election commitments including bringing forward significant construction projects – some of which will now start as soon as this financial year."

The new and fast-tracked infrastructure projects are:

Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

- Palmerston Police Station – \$15M – from 2019/20 to 2017/18 (two years)
- Katherine Police Station – \$5M – from 2020/21 to 2017/18 (three years)

Health:

- Royal Darwin Hospital – FREE Multi Story Carpark – \$12M – from 2019/20 to 2017/18 (two years)
- Royal Darwin Hospital – PET Scanner project \$5M 2016/17 and \$15M 2017/18

Tourism and Culture:

- New home for Rugby League at Warren Park – \$25M – from 2020/21 to 2017/18 (three years)
- Netball Courts – Darwin – \$10M – from 2018/19 to 2016/17 (two years)
- National Iconic Arts Trail
 - East Arnhem – \$10M – 2018/19
 - Katherine Art Extension – \$10M – from 2020/21 to 2018/19 (one year)
 - Tennant Creek Art Gallery extension – 2018/19
- Tourism entrance statements – Tennant Creek – \$2M up from \$1M – from 2018/19 to 2017/18 (one year)

Education:

- Tennant Creek Integrated school project – \$6.5M – from 2018/19 to 2017/18 (one year)

Territory Families:

- Replace Don Dale – \$15M – from 2019/20 to 2017/18 (two years)
- Alice Springs Youth Facility – \$7M in 2017/18

Housing and Community development:

- RIH – Room To Breathe – \$10M – from 2017/18 to 2016/17 Remote Housing – repairs and maintenance (\$5M) from 2017/18 to 2016/17

Note: All projects outlined above are Labor election commitments

Ms Manison said the Labor Government was especially pleased to be allocating money this financial year to start work on delivering a PET Scanner and the largest ever housing package for remote Territorians. Both were key election commitments.

Ms Manison said to help fund the infrastructure projects brought forward to stimulate all sectors of the Territory economy, Government also announced a number of projects – mostly in the roads program – that would be deferred and delivered over five or more years, rather than four years.

“Labor will spread the extensive roads program over five plus years to help fund the construction program coming forward – we know this will create a better pipeline of work for more Territory businesses,” Minister Manison said.

“Decisions on when and how the deferred projects will be delivered will be determined through the upcoming Economic Summits. We have publicly released details about the deferred projects as part of our commitment to Territorians to be open and accountable.”

Last month the Treasurer described the economic situation inherited by the new Labor Government as challenging over the next 12-18 months.

“We inherited a slowing economy from the CLP. They had no plan to boost jobs or to manage the Territory economy through the operational phase of INPEX. They sold off valuable public assets and still left Territorians with an almost \$900m deficit,” Ms Manison said.

“The Inpex construction project is now transitioning to an operational phase resulting in a wind-down of job numbers – construction work is what is needed most.”

Ms Manison said there are around 1830 infrastructure projects currently underway in the Territory.

“We said we would get the money flowing in the community and that is what we have done. In October, expenditure on infrastructure projects hit \$81 million dollars, compared to \$64 million in October 2015 and \$50 million in October 2014,” she said.

“Now is the time to take further steps to support local industries. The Territory’s construction industry, in particular, and industries such as steel manufacturers are telling us that a pipeline of work needs to be in place for the next year to ensure that local jobs can be supported.

“Government has listened to this advice. That’s why we are fast-tracking these projects and will get more projects out into the economy for 2017.”

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[New and Fast Tracked Projects](#)

[Deferred Projects](#)

[Capital Works list](#)