

MEDIA RELEASE

GERRY MCCARTHY
MINISTER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Gerald McCarthy
Minister for Housing and Community Development

More than \$97 Million to Support Local Government: Budget 17

14 April 2017

The Territory Labor Government will strengthen local government with an additional \$5 million in Budget 17, to bring the total funding to \$97.2 million.

The Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy said the Territory Government is supporting local government, creating jobs and building stronger communities.

“This budget will deliver on our election commitments, be a fair plan for the future and support local government services and infrastructure,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Through supporting councils to deliver important services, we will create jobs, boost local economies and strengthen communities right across the Territory.”

Five million dollars will fund projects that improve key infrastructure, such as local roads, parks or public facilities.

“We will establish a *Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund* with a new \$5 million investment each year for regional and shire councils to use for projects designed to increase liveability and community development outcomes,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This could include resealing internal community roads, storm water management, upgrades or repairs to parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and waste management sites, as well as other projects.

“We are providing additional funding for local government despite the tough economic climate which includes a cut to our GST funding.

“We are going through a challenging economic period – everyone knows this and we have been very upfront about it.

“We are working with all councils and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.

“We strongly support regional councils in their important work to deliver services, which is good news for people living in remote Indigenous communities.”

Importantly, local government will benefit from the return of indexation of Financial Assistance Grants from the Australian Government when they resume on 1 July 2017, after a three year hiatus.

This will provide an additional \$1.168 million a year to assist councils to undertake their important work in communities across the Territory.

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