Central Australia is a big winner from the 2015-16 Budget.

The Budget invests in the future with strong infrastructure spending to unlock the full potential of the region.

This budget sets the foundation for Central Australia to grow and prosper with significant investment in economic and community infrastructure projects that create jobs and makes Central Australia an even better place to live.

The local economy is already showing positive signs of recovery with renewed confidence in town.

This is being driven by a raft of major projects already underway including the new Supreme Court, the refurbishment of the Greatorex building, the development of Kilgariff, the South Terrace townhouse project, the redevelopment of the Melanka site, the Chandler salt mine and Virgin Airlines flying into Alice Springs.

This budget will build on that momentum and help take the Central Australia to the next level with better roads, improved early child care and health facilities, expanded tourism infrastructure and upgrades to key sporting facilities.

We know that in the years ahead, the Central Australian economy will tilt towards tourism as a key driver and we are preparing for that shift now by investing in the products and infrastructure the industry needs.

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Budget 2015 includes $9.53 million for new early childhood facilities in Alice Springs including $5.5 million to build a Child and Family Centre at Larapinta Primary School and $4.03 million for a new pre-school facility at Braitling Primary School.

This is fantastic news for Alice Springs families, boosting the child care options available for busy local parents and increasing the support available for their children’s development.

School safety is also important and the Budget includes $1.5 million to construct a new off-street school bus interchange.

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Prosperous Economy

- $16.4M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
- $5.7M for the Alice Springs Desert Park
- $1.4M for the Regional Economic Development Network and the Central Australian Development Office, to drive the development of Northern Australia through community and stakeholder engagement, and showcasing and marketing Northern Australia
- $700 000 for resource exploration
- $600 000 for a strategic horticultural development program to encourage commercial horticulture as a viable industry
- $600 000 over three years to promote regional and remote industry participation and employment in emerging projects in the Central Australia and Barkly regions
- $450 000 to conduct research and development to assist the cattle industry to improve productivity, marketing and profitability, and adapt to a highly variable climate
- $140 000 to adapt agricultural production systems to improve agribusiness investment certainty and ensure sustainability and profitability

A new beginning in Aboriginal Affairs

The Territory Government is creating a new Office of Aboriginal Affairs to guide policy development and drive economic reform.

The new Office of Aboriginal Affairs will lead this effort from Alice Springs, with a particular focus on economic development and job creation in remote and regional areas.

$1.75M a year has been allocated for the new Office of Aboriginal Affairs which will also have a strong community engagement role. A further $4 million over two years has been provided for an Indigenous Economic Development Support Program.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs will oversee a three-year, $18 million Community Champions program designed to support locally-led economic projects in remote communities.

Strong Society

- $211.4M for hospital services including patient travel and aeromedical retrieval services
- $82.04M for primary school education in government and non-government schools
- $43.7M for primary health care services in urban and remote areas
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- $43.17M to provide safe, secure and humane care of adult inmates at Alice Springs Correctional Centre while offering a range of therapeutic and reintegration interventions to assist in their rehabilitation
- $35.87M for middle years education in government and non-government schools
- $34.4M for out of home care and child protection services
- $27.09M for senior years education in government and non-government schools

- $20.5M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Indigenous public housing
- $12.67M to provide children, family and parenting support services
- $7.9M to continue construction of a purpose-built secure alcohol management assessment centre and expansion of treatment services in Alice Springs
- $6.68M for preschool education in government and non-government schools
- $4.45M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community-based clients in the Alice Springs region in line with sentences and orders issued by the courts and the Parole Board
- $3.56M for isolated student education through the Alice Springs School of the Air and distance education
- $2.78M for early childhood education, including the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
• $2.46M for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities including courts in Papunya, Mutitjulu, Yuendumu, Ti Tree, Hermannsburg and Docker River, and registry services provided through the Magistrates Court in Alice Springs
• $2.42M to provide safe, secure and humane care of young people at Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre
• $1.91M to provide school buses and special needs transport for students
• $1.9M to continue a subacute mental health service, that provides for a step-up and step-down model of care
• $1.49M to provide offender treatment programs focussed on Indigenous family violence including remote communities corrections officers programs within Alice Springs
• $1.1M in Back to School payments to help families offset the cost of educational items

$1.1 million for back to school payments

• $700 000 to continue the Hospital in the Home service
• $540 000 to provide enhanced monitoring and surveillance of offenders in the community to enable offenders to return to community
• $530 000 to provide alcohol and other drug residential treatment programs for adult offenders

$400 000 to develop and implement alcohol harm minimisation initiatives in Alice Springs, Titjikala, Laramba, Ti Tree, Ntaria and Yuendumu
• $270 000 to provide reintegration, education and Indigenous affairs programs
• $250 000 capital grant for the Riding for the Disabled program in Alice Springs
• Works will continue to progress residential land release in Kilgariff

Confident Culture
• $2M for an athletics track and field facility in Alice Springs
• $2M to upgrade netball facilities in Alice Springs
• $1.5M capital grant for new lawn bowls facilities in Alice Springs
• $1.21M to plan and support the 2016 Alice Springs Masters Games and Imparja Cup
• $1M for the inaugural RedCentreNATS Alice Springs, including The Concert

$2 million for athletics facilities in Alice Springs

• $770 000 to Tourism Central Australia for visitor information services in Alice Springs, and marketing and industry engagement activities
• $730 000 to support public library services
• $100 000 to expand the Alice Springs Inland Dragway burnout pad

$730,000 to support public library services

Balanced Environment
• $990 000 to monitor surface and groundwater to enable the assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management
• $500 000 to operate the Ti Tree Research Farm, and the Arid Zone and Old Man Plains research stations
• $330 000 to support the livestock and plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases

$500,000 for Ti Tree & Arid Zone Research Station

• $290 000 to manage and maintain Crown land including associated buildings and weed control
• $200 000 for the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
• $120 000 for water allocation plan implementation, regulation and compliance monitoring

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Infrastructure Highlights

- $41.1M under the National Partnership agreements on Remote Indigenous Housing and Stronger Futures, to construct new and upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities
- $34.2M to continue remediation and upgrades to Alice Springs Hospital
- $32M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to upgrade and seal various sections of the Plenty Highway and Tjukurru Road
- $25M for the sealing of the Mereenie Inner Loop of the Red Centre Way tourist drive
- $7.5M for works on the Sadadeen Road bypass to deliver high-level flood immunity access to Mount John Valley
- $5.5M to construct a new facility located on the Larapinta Primary School site to provide integrated child and family services, including preschool, long day care for 70 places, outside school hours care and vacation care
- $4.03M to construct a new preschool on the Braitling Primary School site to replace the Teppa Hill Preschool
- $4.5M to construct a connector road linking Albrecht Drive and Mparntwe Drive to support the development of residential and community purpose land
- $3M for the Brewer Estate development to provide serviced heavy industrial lots
- $3M for increased justice courts capacity in Alice Springs
- $3M for water storage to support future residential lots in Kilgariff
- $2.7M to upgrade and redevelop the Alice Springs Youth Centre
- $2.5M to improve safety on the Stuart Highway near Willowra and Barrow Creek, including shoulder and seal widening, delineation and guard rails
- $1.85M for the Alice Springs Speedway and go-karts upgrades
- $1.5M to construct a new off-street school bus interchange in Alice Springs
- $1M to replace and extend the existing Central Australia Drag Racing Association track surface
- $500 000 to extend the existing Stuart Highway cycle path south of Alice Springs to the new suburb of Kilgariff
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